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BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
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Assembly Proceedings

Official Report

Bengal Legislative Assembly

Seventh Session, 1940

The 13th, 14th, 15th, 18th, 19th and 20th
March, 1940

BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
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(10) The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN, in charge of Agriculture and Industries (including Veterinary) and Rural Reconstruction Departments.

GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

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N

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THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS

Official Report of the Seventh Session.

Volume LVI—No. 4.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 13th March, 1940, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E.) in the Chair, 10 Hon'ble Ministers and 219 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Recent Government census of domestic animals.

*214. **Maulvi ABUL HOSSAIN AHMAD:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government have recently made a census of domestic animals?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

MINISTER in charge of the AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) This is the quinquennial Live-stock Census carried on by all provinces and most of the States in India simultaneously according to the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Agriculture. The object of the census is a systematic survey of the live-stock wealth of the country and the compilation of statistics in regard to live-stock

which are essential for devising ways and means for the improvement of the live-stock in the different provinces and States and in India as a whole.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether as a result of this census it has been found that there has been a decrease in the number of bulls in this province?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: The report of the recent census has not yet been published.

Recruitment of Superintendents of Excise.

*215. **Maulvi MOSLEM ALI MOLLAH:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Excise Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of vacancies that occurred in the rank of Superintendent of Excise, during the last two years;

(*b*) whether those vacancies were filled up—

(1) by direct recruitment, or

(2) by promotion of officers of the department;

(*c*) whether there is any vacancy in the said rank at present;

(*d*) if so, how do the Government propose to fill up the same;

(*e*) whether it is a fact that the Public Service Commission advertised to fill up some of these vacancies by direct recruitment but it was not given effect to;

(*f*) if so, why;

(*g*) has any Muslim officer got any of these posts;

(*h*) if not, why not;

(*i*) whether the recent Government decision of (50 per cent.) communal ratio in the services was taken into consideration while filling up these vacancies;

(*j*) if so, how;

(*k*) whether it is a fact that one of these posts has very recently been filled up by one junior officer—the Excise Prosecutor—having no experience in the general administration instead of by one among the senior Inspectors who have been holding charges of districts for years together,

(*l*) whether the post of Excise Prosecutor is vacant now; and

(*m*) if so, whether there is any officer in the department having requisite legal qualification and practical experience in prosecution works?

MINISTER in charge of the EXCISE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Prasanna Deb Raikut): (*a*) Three.

(*b*) One by direct recruitment, and two by promotion.

(*c*) and (*g*) No.

(*d*) Does not arise.

(*e*), (*f*) and (*l*) Yes.

(*f*) Because it was subsequently found that the percentage of promotion from the Bengal Junior Excise Service to the Bengal Excise Service was inadequate and it was, therefore, decided to fill the vacancies by promotion.

(*h*) No reservation for Muslims was necessary in accordance with the quota fixed for communal representation.

(*j*) Since the issue of the Government communiqué there has been only one vacancy which was due to be filled up by promotion and the question of the communal ratio does not arise in cases of promotion.

(*k*) The Excise Prosecutor was promoted on the recommendation of the Public Service Commission who considered the claims of all Inspectors senior to the Excise Prosecutor.

(*m*) The matter is under consideration.

Maulvi ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the names of persons appointed?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKUT: I want notice.

Maulvi ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Are they Hindus, Muslims or Scheduled Castes?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKUT: I want notice.

Maulvi ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Does the Hon'ble Minister want notice for the names also?

The Hon'ble Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKUT: Yes.

Late publication of the result of the Junior Madrassah Examination, 1939.

***216. Maulvi MD. ISRAIL:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department aware—

(*i*) that the result of the Junior Madrassah Examination of 1939 was published in the last week of January, 1940; and

(*ii*) that the late publication of the result causes inconvenience to the students?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, what steps he proposes to take in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. K. Fazlul Huq): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) With the month of *Ramzan* gradually receding from the commencement of the Madrassah Examination, it may be possible to hold the examination earlier and consequently to publish the results earlier.

Grant of stipends to the Scheduled Caste students.

***217. Mr. PATIRAM ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) when stipends for the current session for the college students belonging to the Scheduled Castes were recommended by the Advisory Committee of the Scheduled Castes Education;

(*ii*) when the abovementioned stipends were sanctioned by the Government; and

(*iii*) when the stipends were given to the students?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the delay in payment of stipends caused inconvenience to the recipients?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*a*) (*i*) On the 18th March, 1939

(*ii*) On the 27th July, 1939.

(*iii*) The first batch on the 16th December, 1939, and the second batch during January, 1940

(*b*) Yes, but the delay was unavoidable. For one reason stipends could not be awarded until the scholarships sanctioned under the new

schemes had been given. A further cause of delay (which will not recur) was a necessary modification in the conditions of award of Junior Scholarships for Scheduled Castes.

Babu PREMHARI BARMA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the necessary modifications in the conditions of award of Junior Scholarships for Scheduled Castes?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I cannot remember, but I can supply. If notice is given I shall answer the question.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: মন্ত্রী মহাশয় জানেন কি তিনি যে বোলেছেন যে First batch of Students রা ১১ই ডিসেম্বর এবং Second batch of Students রা during জানুয়ারীতে stipend পেয়েছে। আসলে কিন্তু ছাত্রেরা মার্চের আগে টাকা পায় নাই। এটা সত্য কি না?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: That may be true I will make an enquiry.

Selection of text-books for primary schools.

*218. **Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing separately the number of text-books approved by the Government of Bengal for classes I to IV of the free primary schools on different subjects this year?

(b) Who makes selection out of those text-books for the particular schools?

(c) Has selection been made for the district of Tippera?

(d) If so, when?

(e) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the names of the members of the Text-book Committee for the selection of the text-books for the primary schools in the Province of Bengal?

(f) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there is a feeling in some quarters—

(i) that the contents of many selected books lead to the spread of communalism among the tender boys and girls for whom they are meant; and

(ii) that the compulsory instructions in religion have also the object of spreading communalism among the tender boys and girls?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: (*g*) A statement is laid c the table.

(*b*) The following instructions have been issued by the Director Public Instruction regarding the selection of text-books out of tl approved list for particular schools:—

"District Boards and District School Boards are requested choose books from the list of text-books approved by the Direct of Public Instruction for use in primary schools and maktal under their control. In making this choice, it is hoped that ca will be taken to ensure that undue patronage either of individu authors or publishing houses is avoided. Inspecting office should not themselves recommend books directly to primar schools and maktabs."

(*c*) and (*d*) I have no information.

(*e*) The names of members of the Text-book Committee are treate as confidential.

(*f*) I have no such information.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) of starred questio No. 218, showing the number of text-books on different subjec approved for primary schools in 1939 for use in classes I to IV i primary schools in the eight districts where arrangement has bee made for free primary education in 1940.

	Number of text-books.
(1) *Bengali Reader*—	
Class I ...	... 75
Class II ...	... 59
Class III ...	43
Class IV ...	... 60
(2) *Arithmetic*—	
Class I ...	... 67
Class II ...	... 54
Classes III and IV ...	... 43
(3) *Geography, Rural Civics and Elements of Science*—	
Class II ...	... 24
Classes III and IV ...	... 40
(4) *Elements of Science*—	
Classes III and IV ...	... 52

		Number of text-books.
(5) *Religious Instruction (for Hindus)*—		
Classes III and IV	...	... 27
(6) *Religious Instruction (for Muslims)*—		
Class I	...	... 29
Class II	...	... 24
Class III	...	... 17
Class IV	...	... 15
Classes III and IV	...	... 4
(7) *Bengali Copy Book*—		
Class I	...	... 29
Class II	.	... 28
Class III	..	... 11
Class IV		... 8
(8) *English Primer*—		
Class III	...	.. 43
English Reader—		
Class IV	...	... 35
(9) *English Copy Book*—		
Class III	...	... 12
Class IV	...	... 12

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the names of the members of the Text-Book Committee are treated as confidential?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: They are treated as confidential.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Why are they treated as confidential?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: There are many reasons. They have always been treated as confidential.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: I want to know the reason.

Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether, in view of the altered circumstances of the Provincial Government, he will be pleased to enlighten us as to the names of the members of the Text-Book Committee?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I think one of the reasons why the names of the members of the Text-Book Committee are kept confidential is to avoid too much canvassing.

Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware of the fact that the Text-Book Committee members are known, even though their names are not published, to publishers and canvassers?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*e*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how is the Text-Book Committee formed and what is the procedure?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise. There are definite rules.

Mr. SHAHEDALI. With reference to answer (*c*) and (*d*), where it is said "I have no information," will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the question was sent to the district authorities and whether any reply was sent by them?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise. Under the law, that is a matter for the School Board.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long the Text-Book Committee has been functioning?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I don't remember, but I must have notice

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: For how many years?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: For three years. I do not know when they began or when they will end.

Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the term of their office will end?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: The beginning must be known before anything can be said about the end.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to say, with reference to answer (*f*), whether he cared to enquire into the allegations made by Dr. Shyamaprosad Mookerjee some time back that some of the text-books contain most objectionable matters that are calculated to hurt the religious feelings of Hindus and lead to the spread of communalism amongst tender boys?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I have made enquiries, and I can tell the House that this charge is absolutely unfounded. The only definite statement that I could get was that in some text-book it was stated that beef was a delicious food. I tried to find it out, but I have not been able to get the book where this passage occurs. If I can see, I will find out, whether there is really anything in the nature of a communal character. A vague charge like that, I cannot enquire into.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় যে দিন না কি রায় হরেন্দ্রনাথ চৌধুরী এবং ডাঃ শ্যামাপ্রসাদ মুখার্জি টেক্সট বুক সম্বন্ধে নানা কথা বোলেছিলেন সেদিন তিনি আমাদের জানিয়েছিলেন যে এ বিষয়ে একটা কমিটি Call কোরে এসমস্ত বিষয়ে একটা সিদ্ধান্ত কোরবেন যাতে নাকি এ নিয়ে আর গোলমাল না হয় সে কমিটি বা কনফারেন্স সম্বন্ধে কি করা হোয়েছে মন্ত্রী মহাশয় দয়া কোরে জানাবেন কি?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: I have already called a conference.

Consulting local M.L.A.'s in making nominations to self-governing local bodies.

*219. **Maulana MD. MANIRUZZAMAN ISLAMABADI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state whether the Government contemplate the desirability of issuing instructions to the Circle Officers, the Subdivisional Officers and the District Magistrates, as the case may be, for consulting the local M.L.A.'s in the matter of nomination to the Union Boards, Local Boards, the District Boards and the Municipality?

MINISTER in charge of the LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca): It is open to local M.L.A.'s to give such suggestions regarding nomination to local bodies within their respective areas as they may consider desirable to the officers mentioned by the hon'ble member; and it does not therefore seem necessary to issue any such instruction. I am, however, prepared to issue a circular to the effect that any such

suggestions in respect of the matters mentioned by the hon'ble member which may be received by these officers from the local M.L.A.'s should be given the fullest consideration.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in Kandi and Jangipur subdivisions in the district of Murshidabad, the union board nominations were determined by a conference in which only members of the Coalition Party were invited?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the local M.L.A.'s of the Coalition Party were consulted in the matter of nomination to union boards?

Mr. SPEAKER: How can he answer that question? There are about 4,000 union boards. You may put any general question.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that, some time back, union board nominations were determined by calling a conference in which only the members of the Coalition Party were invited excluding the members of other parties?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I am not aware of any such conference in which Coalition Party members were consulted in regard to this matter.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is not a fact that he himself changed the names sent by the District Magistrate at the request of the M.L.A.'s of the Coalition Party?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: With reference to the Hon'ble Minister's answer, viz., "I am, however, prepared to issue a circular," will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he has already issued a circular or not?

Mr. SPEAKER: He has already said that he is prepared to issue a circular.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that in many cases the original lists

of nominations sent by the District Magistrate were changed on account of certain suggestions which were received from the members of the Coalition Party?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I regret very much to say that the honourable member is not aware that union board nominations are not sent to the Hon'ble Minister at all, but they are sent direct to the Press for publication in the Gazette.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that although files go to the Divisional Commissioner, still letters are sent from the Hon'ble Minister's office?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: With reference to the answer given, viz., "I am, however, prepared to issue a circular to the effect that any such suggestions in respect of the matters mentioned by the honourable member which may be received by these officers from the local M.L.A.'s should be given the fullest consideration," will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is going to issue such a circular?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: If that is the desire of the House, I shall issue a circular.

Appointments made in departments under the Hon'ble Revenue Minister.

***220. Mr. ABDUR RASCHID MAHMOOD:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state how many—

(*i*) officers, and

(*ii*) clerks.

have been appointed in the departments under him since the 1st April, 1937?

(*b*) How many of them are—

(*i*) Muslims;

(*ii*) Scheduled Castes;

(*iii*) Caste Hindus; and

(*iv*) other communities?

(c) Has any order been issued to the different departments under him to give effect to the ratio question in appointing officers and clerks from different communities of this Province?

(d) If so, will he be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the same?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy): (a) and (b) A statement furnishing the information in respect of appointments made in the Revenue Department and in the office of the Board of Revenue is placed on the table.

(c) Yes.

(d) A copy of the Revenue Department Memo. Nos. 8894-8894/5, dated the 14th August, 1939, and its enclosure, is laid on the Library table.

Statement referred to in the reply to clauses (a) and (b) of starred question No. 220.

Name of department.	Number of Officers appointed		Number of clerks appointed							
			Permanent				Temporary.			
	Permanent	Temporary	Muslims	Scheduled Castes	Caste Hindus	Other communities	Muslims	Scheduled Castes	Caste Hindus	Other communities.
Revenue Department	1* (Caste Hindu)		5	.	.	1 (Indian Christian)	5	3	7	..
Board of Revenue		2** (Caste Hindus)	3		2	1	8	1	3	.

*Post of 2nd Assistant Secretary. The Officer was already a member of the Bengal Civil Service.
**Both these Officers were already members of the Bengal Civil Service.

Babu PREMHARI BARMA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why no Scheduled Caste candidate was appointed in the permanent cadre either of the Revenue Department or of the Board of Revenue?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY RASAD SINCH ROY: Because permanent appointments were made from the temporary men, and probably there was no candidate available in the temporary cadre who could be appointed.

Babu PREMHARI BARMA: No, Sir, there are temporary men from the Scheduled Castes.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINCH ROY: That may be so, but probably after the permanent appointments were made.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Enforcement of communal ratio in clerical appointments in Pabna Collectorate.

103. Maulvi AZHAR ALI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether 50 per cent. ratio of appointments has been given effect to in case of the ministerial staff of districts?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of clerks both in the upper and lower divisions appointed in the district of Pabna (Collectorate and Magistracy) since the fixation of the ratio question, and

(*ii*) how many of them are—

(1) Muslims,

(2) Caste Hindus, and

(3) Scheduled Castes?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) Yes

(*b*)(*i*) No permanent appointment either in the upper division or in the lower division has been made since the fixation of the ratio question.

There were, however, 22 temporary appointments including *khas mahal* and attached estates Tahsildars.

(*ii*) (1) Muslims	. .	12
(2) Caste Hindus	. . . .	8
(3) Scheduled Castes	. . . .	2
Total	...	22

Maulvi AZHAR ALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Khas Mahal estate tahsildars are included in the ministerial staff of the district?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: No, Sir.

Sarta bridge over the river Halda in Chittagong.

104. Dr. SANAULLAH: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state whether he has received a revised rough estimate and survey report for the Sarta bridge over the river Halda on the Chittagong-Hathazari-Magachari Road in the district of Chittagong?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) when the Government intend to commence the work of actual construction of the said bridge; and

(*ii*) how many years the proposal of the construction of the said bridge has been under the consideration of the Government?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar): (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise. The proposal will be considered when Government receive the revised plans and estimates.

Message from the Bengal Legislative Council.

The Secretary then read the following message which has been received from the Bengal Legislative Council, namely:—

"That concurrence of the Assembly be asked to the Bengal Patni Taluks Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 1939, as passed by the Bengal Legislative Council at its meeting on the 23rd February, 1940."

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

43—Industries—Industries.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 15,12,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "43—Industries". In commending this Industrial budget of the province for the consideration and approval of the honourable members of this House, I would submit that although our resources have not permitted us to provide for large schemes, provision have been made for a number of comparatively smaller ones which I think would none the less be found important and useful to the industrial economy of the province. The details of these schemes are available in the printed budget presented

before the House. Apart from the inadequacy of funds which imposed on us a handicap and made us rather conservative, there was another reason for which it was thought necessary to postpone some of the bigger schemes which had been under consideration of Government. As the honourable members know, the question of surveying the industrial position in Bengal, its problems and difficulties and the possibilities of further industrial expansion has been referred to the Bengal Industrial Survey Committee. The Committee has been functioning for about a year and the vastness of the work which it has been called upon to do suggests that it will be at least a few months more before its labours are at an end. I trust honourable members will agree with me that it is appropriate and advisable to await the recommendation of this expert committee before embarking upon any large schemes of expansion. I may inform the House that the Committee have so far submitted two schemes, one on the marketing of cottage industry products and the other on the development of electricity in relation to industries in Bengal and that steps have been taken by Government to assess these proposals in all their bearings. As the question of marketing and financing is the most serious problem for the recuperation of cottage industries, the scheme for the marketing of cottage industry products as formulated by the Industrial Survey Committee is particularly important. It is expected that out of the schemes suggested by the Committee, Government should be able to devise some such methods and measures as would be of substantial assistance to the industries of the province.

The subject of Weights and Measures has just been transferred from the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department to the Industries Department, and I am now considering the question of the appointment of a Committee for considering the lines on which provincial legislation should be enacted for giving effect to the standardisation of the Weights Act recently passed by the Government of India. I am also considering the question of necessary legislation for the standardization of measures which is a provincial subject.

Bengal's principal problem, I am tempted to say even at the risk of repetition, is one of making the way smooth for a well-balanced development in industries and agriculture. Since the vast majority of our people live in the villages and are dependent on a precarious living out of agriculture, the necessity for the expansion of existing industries and the establishment of new industries with a view to adding to their income, is almost overwhelming. Agriculture has ceased to be sufficiently remunerative, the pressure of population being excessive. The result has been a progressive impoverishment of the countryside. What is needed under the circumstances is, therefore, a two-fold and co-ordinated programme of improving agriculture and developing industries. While on the one hand agriculture should be made

economically more remunerative by the introduction of better farming methods, better marketing organisations, contributing towards better price of agricultural products and by other ancillary means, the decadent cottage industries, on the other hand, will have to be revived and new industries, both large and small, established so that the surplus agricultural population may be switched off to industrial avocations and under-employed agricultural workers who have to waste four to five months every year may be provided with subsidiary occupations. In this way alone could more purchasing power be made available to the agriculturists and the standard of living among the masses raised. This, I admit, is a formidable task, but is worth putting in of every ounce of our energy and we have been making all possible endeavour to this end, permissible within the limits of our resources.

Coming to the activities of the Department of Industries during the outgoing year, I am happy to tell you that there has been expansion in several directions and a number of important schemes has been carried into action. Some of these have been more in the nature of preparatory arrangements with a view to laying the foundations of more comprehensive industrial possibilities in the province than in the nature of concrete industrial projects, while others relate to specific results obtained to which I shall presently turn First of all, I should invite the attention of the honourable members to the working of the newly-created Industrial Intelligence Section which was established towards the end of 1938 as a part of the Department of Industries with the object of co-ordinating all the investigatory and statistical activities of the department as far as they relate to the industries and their various aspects This has led to the removal of a long-felt want, for the department was experiencing great difficulties in meeting the growing needs of the public in the matter of supplying reliable industrial data and of collecting facts and figures relating to the various industries of the province. As the encouragement of local industries is the accepted policy of Goverment with a view to improve the economic conditions of the masses, it was indeed necessary for the department to possess a machinery like this, through which detailed data regarding the existing and new industries could be regularly collected and disseminated to the public For it is on the basis of such industrial data that any useful programme of industrial development could be formulated and executed. The section did useful work during the year and produced as many as twelve detailed reports on the surveys of important cottage and small industries of the province. Besides, a detailed statistical study on the growth of joint stock companies in Bengal was published which has been acknowledged in responsible quarters as a very useful document describing the trend of joint stock enterprises in Bengal. Similarly the surveys of many other important industries like handmade paper, handloom cotton weaving industry, silk weaving,

hosiery, etc., have already been completed and the final reports thereon are now in process of preparation. The work of the section is thus one of considerable utility to the department as a whole and to the industrial public who want to be supplied with dependable information on the respective subjects in which they happen to be interested.

The establishment of the Government Industrial Museum and the Moving Exhibition during the year is another step forward. It is a matter of very great satisfaction that no less than several lakhs of people have so far visited the Industrial Museum and the people in the country-side have evinced considerable interest in the Moving Exhibition. In the matter of creating an industrial-mindedness in the province, I trust honourable members will concede, the role of these institutions is unmistakable. While the Museum will serve as the rallying ground of Bengal's industrial products and a centre of valuable commercial and industrial suggestions, the moving exhibition will convey the inspiration and lessons embodied in the Museum to the scattered country-side. The Museum has had the honour of being visited by eminent men like Dr. Tagore, some of the Hon'ble Ministers of other provinces, Hon'ble Judges of the High Court, distinguished professors, emient businessmen and well-known journalists and there were none amongst the visitors who had not a good word for it. The good wishes extended by the distinguished men and women of the country will continue to give great encouragement to the management in forging their way ahead.

To another useful scheme which was inaugurated during the year, I think, I should also make a reference. The Bengal Industrial Research Board which had been sanctioned for two years in 1938 was constituted only in February, 1939, with eminent scientists and industrialists of repute in Bengal. With the available funds of Rs. 25,000 the Board has been able to decide upon a number of schemes of industrial research to be carried on under the auspices of the Calcutta University and the Industrial Research Laboratory of the department. Reports so far received through the department from the Provincial Research Board tend to indicate a sound progress in all directions, and it may be expected that really productive results will flow from the research work of the Board and will lead to the attainment of these objectives, namely—

(*a*) strengthening the economic position of new industries for whose benefit specific research work was undertaken; and

(*b*) opening out the possibilities of new lines of manufacture the products of which it is expected will replace the imported stuff of allied character.

Next, the activities of the Department of Sericulture and Silk Weaving should deserve a mention. During the last three years several

schemes were inaugurated for the improvement of the silk industry of Bengal in all its branches, and it is a pleasure to me to report that all these measures are beginning to show quite encouraging results. First of all new hybrid races of silkworm producing cocoons were introduced with the result that the resultant cocoons at the present moment show a much larger silk content and much longer filaments than those of the old ones, with a very high resistivity in respect of diseases. For these improved races of worms, a keen demand has arisen among the rearers in Bengal. The new reeling machinery and methods devised by the department are becoming more and more popular among the reeling classes. Then the establishment of the Raw Silk Conditioning House at Howrah in 1938, for testing raw silk with the object of fixing grades of Bengal silk, was another step forward for improving the prospects of the industries in Bengal. It is reported that the services of this Conditioning House are being utilised by business houses in an increasing measure and also by some of the branches of the All-India Spinners' Association. Besides, the various schemes of research which are being worked for the improvement of mulberry leaves, cure of the diseases of worms, testing of soil for mulberry, etc., have, it is reported, been attended with encouraging results. Further, the Silk Technological Institute at Berhampore has been thoroughly reorganised—the necessary equipments have been supplied in the shape of new machinery, necessary stuff, etc., and it is expected that in a few months the Silk Weaving and Dyeing Institute at Berhampore will develop into a full-fledged training and research institute for silk weaving which, working in conjunction with the Sericulture Section of the department, will play a very promient part in the development of the silk industry of the province. We have had an opportunity of comparing our work with that in other provinces during the last All-India Sericultural Conference in Mysore, and it is a matter of particular satisfaction that we were found to be doing well. I am aware that there is an impatience in certain quarters about the results of the experiments undertaken. I do not grudge this impatience but welcome it as an indication of the intelligent and active interest taken in our work by the public. At the same time, I must sound this note of warning that the scientific process, in whatever sphere of research it may be, is necessarily a slow moving one, and it is not unlikely that some time should elapse before actual results are to hand. In regard to sericulture, the task was particularly difficult, but I am happy to say that we have been able to devise methods which will be of substantial help to the once famous sericultural and silk industry of Bengal. To those who are not fully satisfied with the working of the department, I would appeal that they should give us the benefit of whatever concrete and practical suggestions they may offer, and I can assure them that these will receive the most careful consideration. Another scheme which might deserve a mention is the reorganisation of a number of peripatetic weaving schools

which have been functioning for a number of years in different districts of Bengal. Hand-loom cotton weaving is the principal occupation of more than three lakhs of people in Bengal and as a subsidiary occupation it is easily capable of adding to the scanty incomes of the agricultural workers. As such any step to improve the weaving industry in the countryside and to educate the weavers or intending weavers on better weaving methods should be considered very necessary. The peripatetic weaving schools have been functioning with an increasing measure of success, and under the new scheme, they have been better equipped to impart weaving education to the village weavers as well as the outside public in a much more efficient manner. The parties will show to the rural workers the superior advantages of modern labour saving looms and weaving appliances and accessories, the processes of dyeing of yarns and printing of fabrics and practical methods of weaving of fabrics of new and attractive designs so that they may manufacture new types of fabrics, more usefully employ their limited resources and successfully meet competition from mill-made products as far as possible

Another scheme of importance that will be put into effect this year is the installation of the Jute Weaving Plant at the Serampore Weaving Institute. Its importance arises from the fact that although jute is a special product of Bengal, the possibilities of its industrial uses have not yet been adequately explored There is no doubt that it with the introduction of suitable processes, jute is employed in the weaving of various fabrics, it will mean a tremendous advantage to the rural people, for jute weaving may provide a profitable occupation to the rural masses I expect that this scheme when actually put into operation will serve as a training centre for students in jute weaving who will carry the lessons far into the villages so that in process of time a lucrative hand-loom jute weaving industry may come into existence.

Another institution of considerable industrial significance to the province maintained by the Industries Department is the Bengal Tanning Institute to which I may be permitted to make a reference. The Institute has been following a three-fold programme, viz , research, training and propaganda, and by pushing it on steadfastly, the Institute has been able to improve the condition of leather industry to a considerable extent. Manufacture of leather, boots and shoes and leather goods has been expanded substantially and the department is making efforts to stimulate further expansion by all possible means at its disposal. It is gratifying to mention that the Institute has achieved striking progress in respect of the manufacture of chrome shoe upper-leather, box and willow sides and calf in Calcutta as a result of research undertaken and training given.

In respect of the working of 28 demonstration parties functioning under the name of the Unemployment Relief Scheme, I should inform

the honourable members of this House that the results obtained from their working, though fairly satisfactory hitherto, have not been quite up to the expectations, and in order to ensure more satisfactory results and greater efficiency, I propose to reorganise it thoroughly in the near future.

I have placed before the House short descriptions of the work on which the Department of Industries is concentrating attention, and I am afraid, it may not be a very impressive account that I have been able to give you. But I would crave your indulgence when I submit that due to the limitations of funds, we have had to postpone certain other projects which should have been provided for in the present budget. The outbreak of the War has created a situation of uncertainty and in the circumstances a certain measure of caution should naturally be exercised in incurring expenditure of a recurring nature. I may assure you, Sir, that Government are awake to the needs of the province in the matter of industrial development But at the same time I must lay stress on the various limitations that surround a Provincial Government in this matter. The limitation of finance is the most serious handicap due to which a Provincial Government cannot undertake any large schemes of development that would involve the expenditure of large sums of money. This is one of the main reasons for which the department has been devoting more concentrated attention on the ways and means whereby the cottage and small scale industries can be regenerated and promoted than on the large categories of industries. By this I do not mean to suggest that the department has nothing to do or does not do anything for the medium-sized and large scale industries. As a matter of fact, the department provides technical knowledge, financial aid in some form or other and industrial intelligence of any type that may be required by these industries.

Sir, I have endeavoured to give you an idea of what the department achieved during the outgoing year and what they propose to do in the coming year in discharge of their responsibilities. I am fully aware that this account lacks in any spectacular schemes of development and that what we have succeeded in doing falls far short of expectations. But this much we claim that within our limitations we have not lacked in intiative and spared no pains in apportioning the available funds between different items of expenditure in the best possible manner. We have started the investigation of industries and the survey of their possibilities. We are awaiting their results and when within a few months they will be available, we shall be in a position to chalk out lines of new developments and new expansions. We yield to none in our anxiety to see an industrially advanced Bengal, and in our earnestness to convert the country-side into better places with a better and

fuller life. But there are formidable handicaps in the way, and it is against this perspective that I would appeal to the honourable members to assess our activity and pronounce their judgment.

With these words, Sir, I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs 15,12,000 for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs 100

Sir, I move this cut motion to bring up once more before the country the economic bankruptcy of this province; and to bring home direct to Government the gravity of the situation I must very briefly narrate the history of the textile industry, past and present. In this way I would like to draw the attention of Government and to point out what sort of responsibility lies with them with respect to the ruination of the industry.

Textile industry can be classified under three heads, namely, cotton, silk and woollen industries, and it is a matter of history that Bengal before the advent of the Britishers not only supplied her own clothes, at least cotton and silk clothes, but also exported these two fabrics to outside countries.

With reference to this point, I may quote a few lines from a valuable book written by the great economist Mr. J. C Sinha in his book entitled "Economic Annals of Bengal." At pages 34 and 35 the gentleman writes: "Bengal cotton goods 'were dispersed to the West and North, inland, as far as Guzerat, Lahore and even Ispahan.' They also went by sea to the markets of Basrah, Mocha and Jedda." He goes on to say: "Kasimbazar, which is now the chief centre of the silk industry in Bengal, was famous for its large production of raw silk as early as the beginning of the seventeenth century." Not only this. The said gentleman also writes, "The English first exported the famous Dacca muslins about the year 1666 and by the year 1675 the fashion of wearing muslins, the costlier fabrics of Dacca, and the cheaper stuffs from other parts of the country, became pretty general in England. After the Revolution of 1688, 'a passion for coloured East Indian calicoes' spread through all classes of that country The Company's trade in Bengal silk manufactures also increased at this time on account of the establishment of English factories at Kasimbazar and Malda. This profitable trade in cotton and silk piece-goods began to expand rapidly all through the last quarter of the seventeenth century." About the woollen industry so far as I know there is no systematic history written of Bengal, but this much can be gathered that woollen clothes were in use in Bengal for a long time—some coarser kinds of this cloth were imported from Tibet and Bhutan and the finer textures were manufactured in Bengal. It can also be traced

that shiploads of ram and ewe were shipped from the Murshidabad district to Australia to introduce the woollen culture there. Therefore, the grave question arises as to how this industry came to an end in Bengal. The first trace that can be found is in the Acts of Parliament and in 1700 and in 1720 two Acts were passed by that august body prohibiting any Englishman to import or use any goods, silk or cotton, manufactured in Bengal. Then the story of cutting the thumbs of the Bengal weavers is also known to the Bengal public. Two theories are given—one is that some of the officers of the East India Company cut the thumbs of the weavers to prevent them from weaving cloths in India and another story is that due to the oppression of the *gomasthas* of the East India Company weavers themselves cut their fingers so that they may not be oppressed again for weaving cloths for the East India Company. Now, Sir, this is the story about the cotton industry. About the silk industry also some sort of oppression was perpetrated by the *gomasthas* of the East India Company so that the country produce could be stopped. At page 81 of Mr. Sinha's book, about the cotton industry he quotes the statement from the writings of Mr. Bolts. He says, "The Company's *gomasthas* make the weavers sign a bond for the delivery of a certain quantity of goods at a certain time and place and pay them a part of the money in advance. The assent of the poor weavers is in general not deemed necessary. The *gomasthas* when employed on the Company's investment frequently make them sign what they please; and upon the weavers refusing to take the money offered, it has been known that they have had it tied in their girdles and sent away with a flogging. A number of these weavers are generally also registered in the books of the Company's *gomasthas* and not permitted to work for any others, being transferred from one to another as so many slaves subject to the tyranny and roguery of every succeeding *gomastha*" About the ruination of the silk industry as I was submitting, it is said that in 1769 the Court of Directors wrote to the Bengal Government that there was no branch of their trade they more ardently wished to extend than that of raw silk. About this time the Company started silk reeling factories in Bengal and resolved that silk winders should henceforth work in the Company's factories instead of working in their own houses with advances from the Company. In their letter, dated March 17th, 1769, the Court of Directors sent the following instruction to the Bengal Government: "To prevent silk winders from working in their private houses where they might work for private traders, and to confine them to the Company's factories where they could only be employed for the Company's benefit, they desire that the newly acquired power of the Government should be effectually employed."

From these quotations it is found that the East India Company and subsequently the Government of Bengal was totally responsible for

the ruination of the textile industry of Bengal. Lastly came the machine-made fabrics invented in Europe and especially in England and these manufactured cloths were forced into Bengal in complete disregard of the interests of the country. Now a century has passed without any improvement to this indigenous industry but ultimately when the *swadeshi* movement came, a section of the public of Bengal took very earnestly to cotton industry and the present position of the industry is as is briefly stated in the Government Bulletin No. 75. At page 6 of that bulletin it is found that in the Bombay Presidency at the end of 1936 there were 222 cotton mills and in Bengal there were only 46 and out of these 46, 22 mills were in operation and 24 mills were in the process of construction or only they were registered and some of the companies could not even sell their shares. I now expect the Hon'ble Minister to state what sort of progress has been made in Bengal during the last 3 years after 1936 with respect to the cotton industry.

This is the position, Sir, with regard to the number of mills. Now, if the question of the value of the cotton fabric manufactured in Bengal is taken into consideration it tells a woeful tale. At page 61 of Bulletin No. 75 it is stated, "According to the managing agents of the Dhakeswari Cotton Mills, Ltd., the approximate annual consumption of piece-goods in Bengal is worth about Rs. 14 crores of which foreign imports account for about Rs. 2½ crores and the rest of India for Rs. 10 crores, so that Bengal's domestic production is not worth more than 1½ crores or about 10 per cent. of her demand, that is about 36 days' consumption only. Therefore, I submit that with respect to the cotton industry alone about Rs. 10 crores are being drained away annually from Bengal. Taking it that we use woollen goods of half the value and silk of one-fourth the value, it comes to this that about Rs. 20 crores are being drained away from Bengal in respect of three items of clothing, namely, cotton, silk and woollen. As I have submitted, 46 mills are now in existence in Bengal. These are all cotton mills, but silk manufacturing industries on a large scale and woollen mills are not to be found in Bengal as yet, though we use this kind of fabrics in large quantities. Now, Sir, I have traced the history of the textile industry and tried to explain that the Government of the country was partly responsible for the ruin of this industry and the present Government also as the representative of that Government may be taken to be responsible for the ruination of this valuable industry. After the *swadeshi* movement, though the Hindu section of the population took very seriously to cloth manufacture, unfortunately, the Muslims lagged behind, and I submit that it was directly due to the propaganda of the Muslim League. The *swadeshi* movement began in 1905 and the Muslim League made its appearance in 1906, and that began in Dacca. It was made practically a sin for the Muhammadans

to do anything which the Congress proposed. The manufacture of indigenous cloth gave an impetus to the textile industry but then the leaders of the Muslim League made it a point not to encourage the Muhammadans to take to the cotton industry and in a way they practically dissuaded the Muhammadans from manufacturing cloths and thus deprived the Muslim population of Bengal from the benefit which was economically derived from the *swadeshi* movement and therefore I say the present Government dominated by the Moslem League is directly responsible for the backwardness of Muhammadans with respect to the cloth industry, and it is their incumbent duty to see that the industry is revived in Bengal. As I submitted, the cotton mills have made some headway in Bengal, but the woollen and silk industries are very backward. I submit that Government should take up at least these two subjects and open model mills in places which will be considered suitable so that an impetus may be given to these industries. We are now forming a Nationalist Muslim Guard and a Nationalist Hindu Guard. Somebody is telling that Islam is in danger and others are telling that Hinduism is in danger. Instead of giving currency to these bogies, instead of organising our young men with a view to redress imaginary wrongs, the real thing which is in danger should be pointed out to our young men, so that the unemployment question may be solved. I propose that Government should allot at least Rs. 1 crore annually and set up one mill in each division with a view to provide employment for our unemployed men and to give an impetus to the cotton industry. With these words I submit my cut motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 15,12,000 under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100.

We have just now heard from the Hon'ble Minister about the industrial policy of the Government. The same old story has been told to-night. The previous Minister also described the policy in the way in which the present Hon'ble Minister has outlined it before this House to-night. If we boil down all the things that the Industries Department has so far done we find that these are nothing but technical training on industrial lines, making industrial surveys and furnishing statistical information. These are undoubtedly very important things, and Government should carry them out. The Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan has also said that there are some schemes which could not be taken up because of want of funds, but he has not given us any indication of what those schemes are. We are sure that those schemes which are yet in the sleeves of Government will follow the lines of schemes which have been disclosed to us for the last three years. Therein also, Sir, as I have already said, we do not find anything

but the same programme, that is, to train our young men in several industrial lines and to train the weavers and agriculturists in the art of handloom weaving and jute weaving and also in the art of making this thing or that thing. I do not mean to say that the training that is given and the survey that is made have no value. Certainly they are of some value in their own way. But what I mean to say is that these things alone should not constitute the industrial policy of Government. To us, the development of industries means much more production. The policy of Government, so far as industries are concerned, should be more production and more production. Sir, we want more production. Why? Because more production will throw open more avenues of employment to many people. Of the main means of livelihood in an agricultural province like Bengal, agriculture forms the basis but next in importance comes industries. Industries can absorb millions and millions of people but mere training will not effect that. So, we mean by the development of industries much more production of industrial articles. We want Government to see that in Bengal much more industrial articles are produced. That ought to be the policy of Government. In this province we are faced with a very severe economic crisis It is not only the middlemen belonging to all the communities but also the agriculturists, as has been admitted by the Hon'ble Minister himself, that are faced with that crisis. Agriculture is no longer a dependable means of livelihood to the agriculturist. Why? Because of many things, because of the dwindling of the extent of the holding, because of the loss of fertility of the soil and because of the uneconomic price of agricultural produce. Together with these, a new problem has arisen: that is, that the agriculturists do not get proper funds at the time of cultivation for want of credit facilities. Sir, agriculturists form no less than 80 per cent. of the total population. Barring, say, 20 per cent. no less than 80 per cent. of the agriculturists are half fed because they cannot carry on with their family members throughout the year with the produce that they get from their land. If that is the position, Government should immediately so arrange that a large number of agriculturists are diverted to other means of livelihood and what that means of livelihood can be? It must be industries. Big industries, including heavy industries, which have immense scope of expansion in our province can absorb millions of people. Together with these industries, other industries, say, handloom industries both cotton and jute, can also absorb millions. In this House we have been told all these three years Government have been trying to revive the handloom industries which from long before used to give employment and food to millions of our people. I said in this House in 1938 while the budget was being discussed that the handloom industry could not be revived by showing to the weavers improved methods of weaving. The handloom industry could only be revived, if the handloom weavers were protected by law

to the effect that the weavers alone shall be entitled to weave cloths of 30 counts or lower and the mills should be entitled to weave cloths of counts higher than 30. If such a law could be passed, barring the mills to weave clothes of 30 counts and lower, then and then only the handloom industry could be revived. Sir, that year, the then Hon'ble Minister took no notice of my proposal, probably because it went from the side of the Congress. Sir, I am glad to inform this House that that point has been taken up by the Central Government. Very recently—on the 9th March last—the United Press issued this information: the United Press learns that the Central Government will call a conference of representatives of the textile mill industry and handloom industry to determine the quota of production and specific weaves of textiles to be reserved for handloom weavers only. In other kinds of textiles both mills and handlooms will be free to compete. The conference will explore avenues for voluntary arrangements between the two wings of the industry.

Sir, I am glad that the Central Government has taken it up, but I should point out that voluntary arrangements between the two industries will not be helpful to the handloom industry, because, I am afraid, the mill industry will not agree to it. So I want to submit that if once the principle has been accepted, the Central Government should take courage in both hands and pass a law to that effect. If, however, the Central Government does not do that, Sir, I ask this Provincial Government to take this matter up. Sir, I do not find any bar for the Provincial Government legislating to that effect and also to levy cess under Article 49 of the Provincial List on the entry of such goods into the different parts of this province and also to levy a tax, under Article 48 of the Provincial List, on the sale of such goods within Bengal. If that is done, then and then alone the handloom industry will be protected and that will give food to the millions.

Sir, as I have already said, we want development of industries for the purpose of giving employment to our people; not only to the majority of the agriculturists but also to the middle class people belonging to all communities, who are starving for want of employment. I am sure the Hon'ble Minister will agree with me that if industry is improved and developed by further production, then trade also will prosper, because trade depends largely on industry. To our young men, only the doors of trade and industry are open now, because other avenues of life, I mean profession and service, are either undependable or choked, and these are dependent on the improvement of agriculture and industry, both of which have hopelessly deteriorated. So it is highly necessary that Government should look seriously to the problem of the development of industry and by the development of industry, as I have already said, I mean further production.

Now, Sir, how to develop, that is the question. While considering the question of development I should ask the Hon'ble Minister and the members of this House to classify industries under two major heads—(*i*) industries for producing our own requirements and (*ii*) industries for exports, for increasing our national wealth. Now, we may subdivide the former division of industries into the following classes, viz., (*i*) heavy industries—chemical machineries, etc., (*ii*) other big industries, such as mill industries—cotton, silk spinning and weaving, salt, sugar, tannery, paper manufacture etc., (*iii*) medium and small-sized industries, *e.g.*, glass manufacturing, soap-making, ceramic industry, hosiery industry and the like, and (*iv*) cottage industries, *e.g.*, handloom industries, both for cotton, silk and jute, hosiery industries, dairies, ghani oil-making, fruit products, canned fruits and chutneys, poultry and shoe-making, etc. We should remember as my friend Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar has pointed out that for most of our cloth requirements, the five crores of Bengalees are absolutely dependent on others. Although we are consuming not less than 13 crores of rupees worth of *dhoties* and *sarees*, not more than 2 crores of rupees worth of goods are produced in Bengal and 2½ crores worth of goods are being imported into Bengal from outside and the rest is coming from Bombay and other provinces. Besides that, we purchase umbrella cloth, silk and rayon cloth, shirting, and coating, drill, mosquito-nets and the like which also will be worth not less than three crores of rupees. We should also remember that our handloom industry and the hosiery industry are supplied with yarns by mills outside Bengal. There are so many cotton mills in Bengal, but none of the cotton mills supplies yarns to the handloom weavers or to the hosiery manufacturers. All these yarns are imported into Bengal.

Then, Sir, we consume 3½ lakhs of tons of imported salt and not less than 2½ lakhs of tons of imported sugar. We should also remember that 1½ crores of rupees worth of mustard oil we consume, of which over 60 per cent. is imported mainly from the United Provinces. About Rs. 20 lakhs worth of cocoanut oil we consume, of which over 50 per cent. is imported from Madras and Bombay. We consume about Rs. 20 lakhs worth of butter and cheese which are imported from Bombay and the United Provinces. Then, Sir, our shoes are supplied by the Chinese, the Batas and the Madras and Cawnpur factories. Is it not a shame to Bengal and her Government?

(Here the honourable member reached the time-limit and was allowed two minutes to finish his speech.)

Sir, what I mean to suggest to Government is this, that Government should have a bold and defined plan for Bengal to be self-dependent at least for some of the necessaries of life, for example, cloth, salt, oil,

sugar and some chemicals, within a defined period of time. Industries to increase national wealth may wait but those for producing our daily necessaries must be taken up at once.

Sir, I remember that during the discussion on a cut motion in 1937-38 Mr. Siddiqi pointed out to the Government that the chemical industry should be taken up by the Bengal Government at once, because he was afraid that war was coming and many important industries would suffer for want of chemicals if such an industry was not set up here. Sir, the war has come and many important industries to produce our daily necessaries have been suffering. The previous Minister said and the present Hon'ble Minister also has said to-night that Government cannot look to big industries now. That shows Government have no policy of development of industries.

Now, the question of finance is the main question, because no industry can be developed without finance. Remember, in 90 per cent. of the failures in industries and other business institutions of the province, it has been due to want of sufficient capital. So Government must come forward to finance these industrial institutions. The ex-Minister of Industries complained that the public of Bengal were not coming forward with money. Sir, the ordinary public of Bengal have given sufficient money and are also prepared to give much more money for industry. But the money that can be expected from the public together with what has been given by them already is too meagre, and it does not touch even the fringe of the problem. There is money in the iron chests of the rich people of Bengal. Government cannot have grievances against the rich men of this province that they did not come forward with money for the development of trade and industries. Government taught them to invest money in Government papers. So, Government could get their money if Government would guarantee its return. But in that direction Government did not take any step so long, and I do not know whether the present Minister will take any step. If, however, Government intend, they can, by successfully tackling the rich men, as I have indicated before, get sufficient money. They should follow the example of Japan. From 1937 Japan has taken up a five years' plan of economic recovery. Japan Government have not depended on the ordinary public for money. They themselves have taken the responsibility of making large production. And what have they done with regard to finance? They have initiated the establishment of a Trust Association and invited the rich men to purchase its shares upon guarantee by Government. They have also established a Deposit Bureau which is a governmental institution and invited the rich men to deposit money therein. Sir, the Finance Minister of Japan is financing the industries with that money and is himself the shareholder of many big industries in that country. Our Government should follow that example.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Biswas, I hope you will appreciate my difficulty. I have given you more than 15 minutes and if you go on further the next member will not get time.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: But what kind of finance Bengal Government have arranged for us? They have referred us to the State Aid to Industries Act and the Industrial Credit Syndicate. Sir, you will be surprised to learn that under the State Aid to Industries Act, only Rs. 7,300 and through the Industrial Credit Syndicate only about Rs. 80,000 has been invested. Is that an adequate finance which a Government should provide for the development of industries in Bengal?

Mr. AMRITA LAL MONDAL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 15,12,000 under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in moving the cut motion which stands in my name, I want to bring to the notice of the House and the Hon'ble Minister for Industries the absence of a comprehensive programme of industrial development in this province. It is a deplorable fact that although full three years have almost passed away, no industrial schemes have so far been put into effect that may place the decadent industries of the province on a stable basis and open up before the masses new industrial opportunities. As you are aware, Sir, the pressure on the land is becoming acute day by day, while the productivity of lands is deteriorating. And at the same time the growth of population is continuing at an accelerated rate. The result is that the economic position of the people is becoming progressively hopeless. What is necessary in the circumstances is the introduction of new industries and the revival of the old decadent industries in the rural areas. By this alone can the scanty incomes of the agriculturists be increased while the under-employed agriculturists who work only for 7 or 8 months of the year may find employment? I may put this question to the Hon'ble Minister for Industries: What have the Government done in his respect?

I know that the Government have not done anything that may bring credit to them. As a member from a rural constituency I may emphatically assert that rural Bengal has hardly been touched by the activities of the Government in so far as industrial development is concerned. Many cottage industries are struggling for their existence and are at their last gasp practically. Should not Government come forward with technical assistance and financial aid for their preservation? I may particularly mention the distressed handloom cotton weaving industry of Tangail and Bajitpur and the bell-metal industry of Kagmari and Mogra, in the subdivision of Tangail. It is very

necessary for their very existence, that Government should provide adequate finance and marketing facilities for them. They are in the grip of *mahajans*. If one or two sales depôts are established in this part of the country, through which the cottage workers will be supplied with funds and their products marketed, I am more than sure that they will be commercially successful and, what will be of much more importance, the struggling cottage workers will be immensely benefited. What I sugest for my own subdivision should be done in other districts of Bengal after proper assessment of their respective needs.

There are also possibilities for many cottage industries in Bengal villages which should be fully explored and developed. If the people are taught basket-making, manufacture of *ashans* and *sataranchis* out of jute, button out of mother-of-pearl, leather shoes, cane works, etc., their incomes can be materially increased. For this purpose the Department of Industries should place a trained staff at every subdivisional town who will impart training in those industries for which raw materials are locally available. Thus for instance in my subdivision jute-weaving, basket-making, cane works and *sataranchi*-making may easily be developed, while at other centres other types of industries may be promoted. I want to make it clear that if the Department of Industries concentrates its activities at Calcutta alone, the industrial needs of the country will never be served. It must send out trained men to impart industrial training to the country-side by example and demonstration. We do not of course know much about all the cottage industries that exist in Bengal. The Department of Industries should undertake regular and comprehensive surveys of all industries so that their problems and conditions may be known fully and remedies suggested. I am given to understand that in this respect the Department of Industries has already made a good beginning in the establishment of a special section, namely, Industrial Intelligence Section which has been making surveys of individual industries. I have no doubt that if it functions properly, it will have a permanent utility and perform a good service in the interest of Bengal's industrial development by publishing reports on all the industries of the province. The work of the Industrial Survey Committee which is functioning for more than a year may also be useful. But the delay in the formulation of its proposals and publication of the final report is indeed regrettable.

In conclusion, I must stress the urgent need for industrial and vocational education to the rural folks. From my own experience I may say that there are many middle class young men in rural areas who cannot obtain a decent education and so have to rot in continued unemployment. If adequate facilities were provided, they might receive some practical training and make a living thereby. Regarding the young men of my community, I may also say that the need for some

suitable form of vocational education even in their early years is urgently needed. All cannot expect to climb the high ladder of general education which is very expensive nowadays. So some must be diverted to business and industrial vocations. In order that suitable training may be received by these young men, the Government ought to make suitable provisions and if necessary open special special industrial schools for them. I very earnestly draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister for Industries to this question and hope that he will do all that is possible in the furtherance of industrial education in the rural areas, and in increasing the incomes of the masses. For without improvement in their economic conditions, no education and no reform can bring peace and happiness to them.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL-MAHMOOD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not like to offer a destructive criticism on the policy of the Government, but this must be said that the present Government is following the old policy. We have seen during the last three years that Government has not been able to make any comprehensive scheme for the expansion of industry throughout the whole of the province. Now, Sir, as we see from day to-day the agriculturists are becoming poorer and poorer day by day. No attempt has been made either to make their land fertile by irrigation, to make expansion of agricultural demonstration farms or such other things or to throw open to them some other avenues of life. They have been left to improve their lot with their rickety ploughs, the old emaciated cattle and half a bigha of land for every individual. Now, if this state of things is allowed to continue, I think Government will not have to pursue any policy in future, as the people will shape their own policy themselves. I would like to suggest that Government should be serious in this matter without delaying any further. Our report, so long with regard to the Industries Department, is that there has been a huge waste of money for the purpose of making cutlery, umbrella and such other things. There is no report before the members of the House that the money that was spent by Government was utilized in the best way. Questions were put in this House with regard to some new industries started since the year 1935-36. We would like Government to be more careful in dealing with those industries; especially the public or the representatives of this House should be convinced that the money that has been invested for the purposes of those industries are being well spent and well utilized. I draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to my suggestions that Government should make a comprehensive scheme on cottage industries.

With regard to the speech that has been made by my friend Maulvi Abu Hossain Sarkar just now, I do not like to say much against it, but I would only like to draw the attention of Government that those

schemes which will require a vast field or huge sum of money and will have to face keen competition but will improve the condition of very few people, ought not to be encouraged by Government. Government's sole object should be how the condition of the people in the rural areas can best be improved, and what I think in my own way, is that the cottage industries—just like starting of some weaving schools in different centres—should be taken up without wasting any further time.

Another thing which I am inclined to think, the Government might tackle if they think that is right and feasible, is this. Specially in Sirajganj in the district of Pabna, we see that sugarcane is cultivated in abundance. One sugar mill has been started in Gopalpur, and we understand that the Company is advancing money to the agriculturists of those areas to produce sugarcane. Poor as they are, they are in need of money. They take the advance and sell sugarcane at a low price, especially at this war time when we think that the starting of such mills which will to a great extent solve the economic problem of the masses should be taken up by Government without further delay and one such mill should be established at Sirajganj. I do not like to inflict a long speech on the subject, but the attention of Government is drawn as to whether any comprehensive scheme with regard to cottage industries, *i.e.*, weaving schools and the establishment of some sugar mills in the areas where sugarcane is cultivated in abundance, can be given effect to.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi FAZLUL QUADIR: I do not want to speak now, Sir, but I may be allowed to speak after the prayer adjournment.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 20 minutes.)

(*After adjournment.*)

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Sir, I beg to move——

Mr. SPEAKER: What I propose is that there should be one speech from each side. I think there will be no time to move a cut motion. If you want to speak, you can speak generally.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Sir, I want to speak on the Fishery Department.

Mr. SPEAKER: All right.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Sir, it will be admitted by all that fish is one of the staple foods of the people of Bengal. The demand of fish in the province is so high that a huge quantity of dried and salty fish is imported annually from outside Bengal. To meet this demand within the province, the Government of Bengal, to enquire into the possibility of starting fish industry, appointed a Fishery Expert from Madras. He came, surveyed the Bay of Bengal and the inland rivers, submitted a report and has gone home. The Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur of Dacca, the then Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department, expressed on occasions more than once on the floor of this House, that he would start fish industry as soon as the Expert submitted his report. Though the report has been submitted, it now rots in the dark cells of the Secretariat. The public were not fortunate to know the contents of the report.

The Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur of Dacca provided for Rs. 5,000 in 1937-38, Rs. 12,000 in 1938-39, Rs. 2,000 in 1939-40, but no money has been provided for 1940-41. This clearly indicates that the Government has abandoned the idea of fish industry.

The problem of fish industry and fishing has failed to attract the attention of the people of this province. The demands of fish are so great that the supplies of fish from inland rivers are quite inadequate. Sir K. G. Gupta in his admirable report states that 14 per cent. of the people of Bengal do not take fish, but he further says: "This leaves 86 per cent. or, making further allowances, it may be affirmed that not less than 80 per cent. or 40 millions of the population are fish-eaters. People do not care to eat fish every day and with the Hindus there are certain prohibited periods, so that we may estimate 320 days in a year when fish would be taken. Allowing 2 chattaks every day, the quantity per head comes to one maund and 40 million maunds would represent the proper annual consumption of the province were the supply equal to the demand, which it is not."

So it is clear that in order to supply fresh water fishes to Calcutta and other towns of Bengal, an attempt should be made in the Bay of Bengal. Once the Government take up this subject not only the unemployment problem of Bengal will be solved but fishes, both dry and salty, can be exported to other fish-eating country to the great income of the province. It is indeed very difficult to locate the fish-catching area in the deep sea, but the Government of Bengal made an attempt by a steam trawler "Golden Crown" and Mr. Naidu also made similar attempts in the Bay of Bengal. To be benefited by the scheme of Mr. Naidu, Captain N. N. Dutta of Bengal Immunity has formed a private company named Indian Trawling Company. Experience of this company has been vividly described by Babu Amal Chandra

Guha Roy in an article in "Current Thought" named Sea-fishing in Bengal. Amal Babu says, "According to the Indian Trawling Company a trawler can fish in the sea 5 days a week, the journey to sea and back covering two days. On a very conservative estimate 60 maunds can be fished in a day or 300 maunds a week or 1,200 maunds a month. There are five classes of fish available. The first class is composed primarily of bhekti, bagda, pomfret and so on. It sells in dull season from Rs. 20 to Rs. 25 a maund and the price soars even up to Rs. 100. Class II fish sells at Rs. 15 or Rs. 16, class III from Rs. 8 to Rs. 10, class IV from Rs. 6 to Rs. 8 and class V from Rs. 3 to Rs. 6 per maund. These are all prices on a low estimate. On the average the price can be conservatively taken at Rs. 8 per maund which will ensure Rs. 9,600 against a catch of 1,200 maunds. Against this should be set the monthly expenses, namely, establishment Rs. 2,000, coal and ice in four trips Rs. 1,500 add another Rs. 500 to cover unforeseen expenses and add Rs. 500 again as the cost of the wear and tear of trawler, etc. That makes the total expenditure to come up to Rs. 4,500, thus ensuring at least a clear profit of Rs. 5,100 every month, *i.e.*, more than a 100 per cent. return. This fish which is sold at Rs. 8 per maund or more than 3 annas a seer do not reach the consumers at the same price. It is purchased by *aratdars*, from whom it goes to a class known as *paikar* and then to retail shoppers. In the market, price is doubled and it sells at least at Rs. 16 per maund or more than 6 annas a seer. The middlemen make outrageous profits. With a well-knit organisation it will not be difficult to eliminate the middlemen, and organise its own distributing centres. That process will ensure still greater profits, even if the price charged is lower than the fresh water fish. Indeed, we can look forward to the day when fresh water fish coupled with sea resources will sell for at least half of what we pay to-day.

When the Indian Trawling Company was asked about the problem of marketing, they said that they did not find difficulty about it, as the fish was sold as soon as it was landed. Neither did they find any difficulty in disposing of their stock, as according to them, the fish-eating population has a good taste for fresh sea-fish. The problem of drying and salting did not arise, as they had never any surplus stock left.

Fishing industry is a growing one and with that end in view the then Hon'ble Finance Minister, Mr. N. R. Sarker, laid the foundation stone of a fishing school, at Mehera in the district of Tippera. A two-storied building was erected there. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is to be done with that two-storied building if the Government give up the idea of fish industry and fish protection policy?

Will the Hon'ble Minister now rise up to the occasion and state before the House his policy with regard to the fish industry and fish protection?

Khan Bahadur FAZLUL QUADIR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the main demand of Rs. 15,12,000 for expenditure under the head "Industries", I beg to lay before the House some grievances that though Mussalmans are extremely backward in respect of technical and industrial education, no encouragement whatsoever is given to them.

The report of the Publicity Department, "Bengal Ministry and the Hindus of Bengal" has opened our eyes, and it appears from page 28, table C, that out of Rs. 4,15,120 only Rs. 46,835, *i.e.*, 11 per cent., were spent for the training of Muslims in non-Government technical schools and the balance of 89 per cent. spent for Hindus and other non-Muslim schools in 1937-38.

Besides, Government advanced Rs. 3,61,123 during this period for training detenus and for their pottery factory in addition to the payment of Rs. 150 a month, towards the salary of a supervising Inspector.

I will cite two concrete cases for information of the House how Muhammadan enterprises are being hampered.

In Chittagong I have started an industrial home for Muslim girls in 1937. Since then the Home is getting only Rs. 80 a month as recurring grant. The Home was visited by many distinguished visitors including the Hon'ble the Chief Minister of Bengal, who highly appreciated the work of the girls. The Hon'ble the Chief Minister remarked that—

"I had one of the most pleasant surprises of my life when I paid a visit to the Islam's Ideal Home for Girls in Chittagong..... I wish only to record my complete satisfaction and my firm conviction that this institution deserves the utmost possible help and sympathy."

Sir, for the last 2 years I have been trying to get a grant-in-aid of Rs. 400 a month, two-thirds of the proposed expenditure of Rs. 600, on special consideration for the poor Muslim girls' industrial training and re-organise it and appoint more efficient mistresses. This institution has been imparting technical education free of all charges including conveyances as only the poor half-educated Muslim girls are receiving training in the Home for their economic salvation and honour. They are receiving various kinds of education in the Home so that they may become good housewives and good mothers and develop the cottage industries of the country. To sanction more than half of the proposed expenditure being beyond the power of the Director of Industries, the matter was recommended by the Director of Industries to the then Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department, but

unfortunately after a prolonged correspondence it has been turned down by the Finance Department. But the Finance Department was very generous to provide Rs. 20,000 as capital grant for Vidyasagar Bani Bhavan, Rs. 5,000 for Ramkrishna Mission Industrial School at Belur, Rs. 2,000 for Mission Industrial School at Faridpur and Rs. 50,000 for Bratachari Dance.

Last year Government was pleased to grant Rs. 30,000 for Saroj Nalini Dutt Memorial Association, while it receives a recurring annual grant of Rs. 11,400 for industrial school. Besides other Hindu industrial schools are getting very liberal recurring grants such as Nari Sikhya Samati about Rs. 17,000 under different heads, Dacca Ananda Asram Rs. 3,000 a year, and so on. But the Muslim enterprises are being throttled and no encouragement is given to develop. I would therefore most strongly urge the Government to earmark a portion of the grant to be spent annually as recurring and non-recurring expenditure for the advancement of technical and industrial education among Muslim males and females. Grant-in-aid rules on the basis of half and half should be relaxed in case of Muslim enterprises, as they have been deprived of their legitimate share so long. The present rule is a great handicap to the development of cottage industries.

Government always make excuses that the House could not give any definite scheme for development of industry and solve the unemployment problem partially. Therefore, I like to cite a concrete case for consideration of the House and Government.

In 1938 I submitted a proposal to the Hon'ble Minister of Industries for establishment of a Leather Tanning and Trading School at Chittagong, as raw materials to the extent of Rs. 16,00,000 are being exported from Chittagong annually. I offered free gift of land, which was selected by the Site Selection Committee composed of Mr. B. M. Das, Superintendent of Leather Tanning School, Calcutta, Additional District Magistrate, Executive Engineer and Civil Surgeon in July, 1939. But unfortunately neither it has been administratively approved nor did it find a place in the budget of 1940-41. It has been shelved. Chittagong being a major port, there is every possibility to export even half-tanned hide to foreign countries and thus explore the new avenues by using the raw hides. Ultimately it may turn into a great factory. I therefore most earnestly draw the serious attention of the Government to find means and ways to establish the Leather Tanning and Trading School at Chittagong at an early date.

(At this stage, the member having reached his time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. F. A. CLARK: I will not detain either you, Sir, or the House for more than a few minutes. But a subject connected with industries has been mentioned with which I happen to be connected. Therefore,

I feel that it should be my privilege to be allowed to say a few words on that subject. An honourable member on the Coalition Benches, if I heard him right, said that he thought that Government should establish a sugar factory or it might have been more than one sugar factory in this province. Now, Sir, I do not wish any one to think that because my firm happens to be connected with a sugar factory, therefore I expect to have the whole field to myself. Certainly not. But I would draw your attention to the fact that India to-day produces as much sugar as she can consume. Last year it was certainly a fact that owing to floods and drought there was a short crop and sugar had to be imported from Java, but that was a very exceptional year. In the ordinary way, speaking from memory, the consumption of white sugar in this country is round about 1 million tons, and the capacity of the existing factories is certainly considerably in excess of that. Now, it has been said—I have read articles to that effect in the papers—that the policy of other Governments is such as to encourage the introduction of more sugar factories than now exist in this province, where conditions are not so arduous. But I would like to point out that by a stroke of the pen, by a very simple alteration in the legislation of those provinces, changes can be made at once in the direction of more reasonable, if I may say so, minimum prices for sugarcane and so on. Therefore if we start a large number of sugar factories in this province we shall probably be producing more sugar than the country can absorb, the inevitable result of which will be lower for sugar prices and lower prices for sugarcane. Therefore, Sir, I do not think that at this stage the Government of Bengal would be justified in erecting even one sugar factory. Our experience is that although we have been making sugar for three years now it is only this year that we have been able to get anything like a sufficient quantity of cane and the other large factories in the province are having the same experience.

Mr. BIRENDRA KISHORE RAY CHAUDHURY: Sir, I want to oppose the demand on the question of organising the industries of the province on a systematic and planned basis. Sir, we have heard it almost *ad nauseum* that people of Bengal are not only backward in industrial organisation, but may remain so for ever. But time has come when we must by our action give the lie to such observation. Before the industrial revolution took place in the world and before the products of large scale industries flooded our markets, the position of Bengal was as good or as bad as any other part of the country, and I should say of the world. Our avocations were not merely agricultural as it is sometimes emphasised in certain quarters. Our cottage industries were developed as perfectly as and sometimes more perfectly than the cottage industries in other parts of the country. It is only true that because of peculiar circumstances which I need not dilate at the present moment, we have not found it easy to adjust ourselves to the

new system of industrial organisation. Sir, it is because of such lack of adjustment on our part that we have definitely become backward in industrial life.

If, Sir, the matter is left entirely or even largely to the private initiative and enterprise, I am pessimistic enough to believe that we shall continue to remain backward as now. It is urgent that the Government should intervene more earnestly and enthusiastically in the matter of developing industries on a systematic basis than it has done so far. Sir, when I scan the item of expenditure of the Industries Department I become convinced as everybody else will be that the Department of Industries has been maintained only as a show without anything serious to perform. In the year 1940, such a department cannot certainly justify its existence by merely handing over some doles and that also most ungenerously and unsystematically to a few carpentry and weaving schools. Even the so-called State Aid to Industries Act which was vaunted so much as a great panacea to our industrial backwardness, has virtually been pigeonholed and forgotten by the department.

Sir, nearly two years ago it was announced that a committee had been appointed to explore the possibilities of industrial regeneration in the province. For long, however, we have not heard anything as to the results of work of this committee.

It is time, Sir, that the Government should collect the facts and place them before the public regarding the industrial requirements of the province. It should definitely point out as to which industries should be run on a large scale and which on a small scale basis to minister to our needs. It should also make necessary and proper arrangements for the supply of credit. We heard some time ago of a Credit Syndicate being established with the Government support, but it does seem now that the project has vanished in thin air. The days of mere tinkering are over and a systematic and comprehensive plan of large and small industries with Government support should be formulated for the improvement of our economic life.

Mr. MANMATHA NATH ROY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister in placing the Industries budget before us has taken shelter under the hackneyed plea of financial stringency. I shall begin my address by pointing out what a small and insignificant sum the Government spends on industries out of its ordinary revenue. In the present year we find that the receipts from the cinchona plantation, and other small receipts amount to Rs. 17,46,000, whereas the total demand under Industries including cinchona amounts to Rs. 21 lakhs only, so that the Government spends the magnificent sum of Rs. 3¼ lakhs on industries out of its ordinary revenues. I was looking into the budget debate of the last year under this head and I found that the Hon'ble

Minister had admitted a remarkable awakening of the industrial consciousness in this country. Now, Sir, what is the aid which the Government proposes to offer to satisfy this awakening of industrial consciousness. We find that out of a total demand of Rs. 15,13,000 for the next year excluding cinchona, Rs. 8 lakhs or more than half is to be spent for the pay and allowances of officers and the establishment, whereas the grants-in-aid amount to only Rs. 2,77,000 and scholarships to only Rs. 58,000.

I shall now refer to a case of what I cannot help characterising as criminal negligence on the part of the Government in the expenditure under Industries in the current year, for while we find that the grant in the current year was Rs. 16,19,000, Government spent or at least proposes to spend only Rs. 15,25,000, that is a lakh less than what was provided. The Red Book professes to give some explanation for this smaller expenditure, and it says that the decrease is due partly to smaller expenditure for industrial schemes for trained detenus and partly to the postponement of the following schemes:—

	Rs.
Installation of the jute-weaving plant at the Serampore Weaving Institute ...	24,500
Provincial organisation for the purchase of stores ...	18,000
Industrial projects of rural reconstruction ...	16,000

What a pity that these useful proposals were not carried into effect. I also found that the Hon'ble Minister last year in the budget debate referred to several schemes which could not be taken up on the ground of financial stringency. May I not say now that the Government is guilty of flagrant and criminal negligence in not utilising the whole amount granted by this Assembly, while so many schemes were waiting to be taken up.

I now come to the present budget, and it appears that for the next year the demand is for Rs. 15,13,000 against the demand of Rs. 16,19,000 in the original budget for the current year, so that it is a lakh less than what was provided in the last year's budget in spite of the professed anxiety on the part of the Government to advance the interest of industry in this province. The establishment of a Museum or the setting up of some schools here and some there will not solve the problem. No doubt the appointment of the Industrial Survey Committee was a good move, but it was very belated and in this connection I cannot help quoting what the Hon'ble Minister said in the budget discussion last year on the matter of appointment of this Committee because that appointment put a stop to all advancement of industries. Mark the words he used: "We were following the five-year plan, but for the time being, we have stopped it because we have set up an

Industrial Survey Committee, and we want the Industrial Survey Committee to tell us whether the programme we have proceeded with should be adopted or curtailed or improved. Until that report comes, there is bound to be a stagnation." That is what the Government themselves admit. Then he proceeded: "I can say, Sir, that the Industrial Survey Committee which we have set up is much better than the Congress National Planning Committee." Notwithstanding the satisfaction that the Government felt that the Committee would be more helpful than the Congress National Planning Committee, what is the present stage in the labours of this Committee? The Hon'ble Minister told us only a while ago that it has not yet finished its labours. The Hon'ble Finance Minister while presenting the present budget said that the Committee has only put in certain preliminary recommendations——

(Here the honourable member reached the time-limit and was allowed time to finish his sentence.)

I have no doubt, Sir, that before the term of the present Assembly expires or before there is any time to take action, neither the final report of the Committee nor the decision of the Government thereon will see the light of day.

Maulvi MD. MOZAMMEL HUQ: মাননীয় সভাম্‌খ্য মহোদয়, আমাদের কৃষি এবং শিল্প-বিভাগীয় মন্ত্রী মাননীয় মৌলবী তমিজ্‌দ্দিন খাঁ সাহেব শিল্প-সংক্রান্ত ব্যয়ের জন্য আজ ১৫ লক্ষ ১২ হাজার টাকার দাবি পেশ করিয়াছেন। সে সম্বন্ধে আমি দ্‌ই-একটা কথা বলিতে চাই। প্রথমতঃ তাঁর দাবির সঙ্গে সঙ্গে তিনি শিল্প-সংক্রান্ত স্কীমসম্‌হের যে সুদীর্ঘ তালিকা পাঠ করিয়াছেন, তাহাতে কেহ কোন মন্তব্য না করিলেও, মনে হয়, দেশে শিল্পের বিস্তার হইয়া গিয়াছে। কিন্তু আমরা বয়স্ক হইয়াছি তালিকা পাঠে আমরা ভুলি না। কথায় বলে ভাব ভুলিবার নয়। (Mr. SONTOSH KUMAR BASU: ঠিক বোলেছেন।) অতএব তাঁর উক্ত তালিকায় না ভুলিয়া আমি দ্‌ই-একটা কথা বলিতেছি। এখন কথা হইতেছে এই যে দোষ দিব কাহাকে? মাননীয় তমিজ্‌দ্দিন খাঁকে দোষ দিলে চলিবে না। বাজেটের গোড়ায় গলদ রহিয়াছে বলিয়া আমাদের মন্ত্রী মহোদয়গণ ইচ্ছা থাকা সত্ত্বেও কাজ করিতে পারিতেছেন না। তাহার মানে এই যে আমাদের এই অটোনমি বা প্রাদেশিক স্বায়ত্ত-শাসন পাইবার পূর্বে ইংরেজের "ষ্টীল ফ্রেম" আই, সি, এস কর্ম্মচারিগণই বাজেট তৈরী করিতেন। সেটাকে ষ্টীল ফ্রেমের বাজেটই বলা যায়। সে বাজেটে আমাদের দেশের লোকের বা দেশের লোকের প্রতিনিধিদের কোন হাত ছিল না। সেই বাজেট সেই ষ্টীল-ফ্রেমের বাজেটই এখনো পর্য্যন্ত সেই ভাবেই তৈরী হইয়া আসিতেছে। ক্ষমতা পাওয়া সত্ত্বেও এই তিন বৎসরের মধ্যে বাজেট তৈয়ারীর ধারাটা পর্য্যন্ত বদলান গেল না, ইহা হইতে দ্‌ঃখের বিষয় আর কি আছে? সেই জন্য অটোনমি বা প্রাদেশিক স্বায়ত্ত-শাসন পাইবার পর আমরা যদিও মন্ত্রীদের নির্বাচিত করিয়াছি, এবং তাঁহারাও দরিদ্র জনসাধারণের জন্যই যদিও কাজে নামিয়াছেন, কিন্তু বাজেটের ব্যবস্থাটা তাহাদের হাতে না থাকায়, তাঁহারা ইচ্ছা মত কিছুই করিয়া উঠিতে পারিতেছেন না। বাজেট তৈয়ারী করার ব্যবস্থাটা রহিয়াছে অর্থসচিব বা ফাইনান্স মিনিষ্টার মহোদয়ের হাতে। সেই জন্যই মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর কার্য্যবিভাগ (Portfolio) বন্টনের সময়, আমরা প্রভূত অর্থশাস্ত্রী এবং ভারতে বিখ্যাত অর্থনীতিবিশারদ, বলিয়া যাহার বিরাট নাম, সেই মিঃ নলিনীরঞ্জন সরকারকেই অর্থসচিবের গদিতে বসাইয়াছিলাম। কিন্তু দ্‌ঃখের বিষয়, তিনটী বৎসর অর্থসচিবের গদিতে

বসিয়াও এবং প্রভূত সুযোগ হাতে পাইয়াও তিনি সেই শক্ত "স্টীল ফ্রেমের" কাঠামোটাকে ভাঙ্গিতে পারেন নাই। আই, সি, এসগণ রচিত পূর্ব্বের সেই স্টীল ফ্রেমের বাজেটের এখানে ওখানে একটু আধটু অদল বদল করিয়া তিনি গত তিন বৎসর বাজেট তৈয়ারী করিয়াছেন। আমরা তবুও তাঁহার কাছে এই আশা করিয়াছিলাম যে বাকি দুই বৎসরের মধ্যে তিনি এই স্টীলফ্রেমকে ভাঙ্গিয়া চুরমার করিয়া দিয়া আমাদের দেশের উপযোগী করিয়া একটা বাজেট করিয়া দিয়া দরিদ্র দেশবাসীর একটা মহা উপকার সাধিত করিবেন। কিন্তু আমাদের দেশের দুর্ভাগ্য—জনসাধারণের দুর্ভাগ্য তাই তিনি মনের দুঃখে "গোসা" করিয়া অর্থসচিবের মূল্যবান গদিটী পর্য্যন্ত ছাড়িয়া চলিয়া গিয়াছেন। অবশ্য সেটা তাঁহার ব্যক্তিগত ব্যাপার। কিন্তু আশ্চর্য্যের বিষয়, গদি ছাড়িয়া গিয়াই আমাদের নব অর্থসচিবের প্রতি তিনি কটাক্ষ করিয়াছেন, যে কটাক্ষ তাঁহার নিজের উপরই নিজের করা উচিত ছিল এবং হাটে হাড়ি ভাঙ্গিয়া বলিয়াছেন মন্ত্রীগণ বাজেটের টাকা খরচ করিতে পারেন না। একথা অর্থসচিবের গদীতে থাকা-কালীন বলিলেই শোভন হইতো এখন বলায় ইহা ক্রোধ ও "গোসা" প্রসূত বলিয়াই সকলে ধরিয়া লইবে।

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the honourable member relevant in discussing this?

Mr. SPEAKER : Mr. Mozammel Huq, you are not replying to the ex-Finance Minister. You are discussing the budget on Industries.

Maulvi MD. MOZAMMEL HUQ: সভাম্‌খ্য মহোদয়, আমি সেই দিকেই আসিতেছি। আমাদের মন্ত্রীমহোদয় শিল্পবিভাগের জন্য যে ১৫ লক্ষ ১২ হাজার টাকার দাবী পেশ করিয়াছেন, উক্ত দাবী আমরা কয়েক মিনিটের মধ্যেই পাশ করিয়া দিব। বিগত তিন বৎসর যাবৎ ও ন্যূনাধিক ঐ পরিমাণ টাকা আমরা প্রতি বৎসরই পাশ করিয়া দিয়াছি এবং গভর্ণমেন্টও শিল্পের জন্য উহা ব্যয় করিয়া আসিতেছেন। কিন্তু তাহা দ্বারা দেশে শিল্পের কি কিছু উন্নতি হইয়াছে? আমরা এই তিন বৎসর কি দেখিতেছি, এখানে একটা টেক্‌নিকাল স্কুল, ওখানে একটা শ্রীরামপুর উইভিং স্কুল, সেখানে একটা বহরমপুর সিল্ক উইভিং স্কুল। আর কতকগুলি পেরিপেটেটিক পার্টী বা ভ্রাম্যমান দল দেশময় ঘুরিয়া বেড়াইতেছে। এই ত শিল্পবিভাগের কাজ। এই সব চালাইতেই গভর্ণমেন্টের লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা বৎসর বৎসর ব্যয় হইয়া থাকে। আসলে দেশের practical শিল্পোন্নতি কিছু হইয়াছে কি? বুকে হাত দিয়া কি আপনারা বলিতে পারেন যে দেশে শিল্পের কোন রকম উন্নতি হইয়াছে? আমরা যখন গণতন্ত্র ও ক্ষমতা হাতে পাইয়াছি, তখন দেশে শিল্পের সর্ব্ববিধ উন্নতি আমাদের অচিরেই করা দরকার। তাহা না করিলে আমাদের কর্ত্তব্যচ্যুতি ও পাপ হইবে। গনতন্ত্রের ফলে আমাদের হাতে ক্ষমতা আসিয়াছে,—আমরা যদি বলি যে এরকমভাবে আমরা আর ভূয়া বাজেট পাশ করিব না; শুধু ছেদো কথা ও বক্তৃতায় আমরা আর ভুলিব না। Practical কাজ করিতে হইবে তাহাতে কোন দোষ হইবে কি? তিন বৎসর যাহা করা হইয়াছে তাহাতে জাতির কিছুই উন্নতি হয় নাই। (Hear, hear.) সেই জন্য আমি বলিতে চাই যে এখন আপনাদের মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীর এইরকম বাজেট করিতে হইবে যাহাতে এই স্টীল-ফ্রেম শীঘ্রই ভাঙ্গিয়া চুরমার করিয়া দেওয়া যায়। এবং এই নির্দ্দেশই আজ মন্ত্রীদের প্রতি আমাদের দেওয়া দরকার হইয়া পড়িয়াছে।

কিছু পূর্ব্বেই আমরা কৃষির জন্য পাশ করিয়াছি ১৬ লক্ষ ৬৮ হাজার টাকা। সে বিভাগেও শুধু বড় বড় অফিসারদের মোটা মোটা বেতন দিবার দরুণই বৎসর বৎসর টাকাগুলি উজাড় হইয়া যাইতেছে; কৃষি-বিভাগের দ্বারা গরীব কৃষকদের কোন উপকার বা উন্নতি হইয়াছে এরূপ তো আমরা কিছুই দেখিতেছি না। জমির উর্ব্বর শক্তি কমিয়া গিয়াছে, উর্ব্বরতা বাড়াইবার জন্য

কোন প্রয়াস নাই, বীজের অভাবে দরিদ্র কৃষকগণ ক্ষেতে ফসল বুনিতে পারে না, গোচারণের মাঠের অভাবে এবং গো-খাদ্যের অভাবে হালের গরুগুলি সব নিপাত হইয়া যাইতেছে; সেদিকে কৃষি-বিভাগ কি আজ পর্যন্ত কিছু করিয়াছেন? এতগুলি টাকা—এত লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয় করিয়া কেবল বড় বড় অফিসারদের পোষা হইতেছে মাত্র। ইহাকে গভর্ণমেন্টের সখের হাতী পোষা বলা যাইতে পারে; তাই আমি বলিতেছি যদি এই ১৬ লক্ষ ৬৮ হাজার টাকা কৃষিবিভাগের ব্যয়ের বাবদ না দিয়া ঐ টাকা দ্বারা ম্যানিওর বা সার, গোচারণের মাঠ এবং নানা বীজ কিনিয়া কৃষকদের দেওয়া যায়, তাহা হইলে দরিদ্র কৃষককুলের প্রভূত উপকার সাধিত হইবে। (Laughter.) আমাদের এখন আর হাসিলে চলিবে না। কাঁদিবার সময় আসিয়াছে। এই রকম করিয়া কৃষি-বিভাগে এক বৎসরে ষোল লক্ষ টাকা এবং দশ বৎসরে ১ কোটি ৬০ লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয় হোয়ে যাবে অথচ বাংলাদেশের জনসাধারণের, চির দরিদ্র নিরন্ন কৃষককুলের কোন প্রকৃত কল্যাণ সাধিত হইবে না, গভর্ণমেন্টের এরূপ "অকেজ" নীতি আর চলিতে পারে না। (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL : Industryর বিষয় বলুন।) এখন আমি Industryর সম্বন্ধেই বলিতেছি। Textile Industry বা বস্ত্র-শিল্প সম্বন্ধে ইতিপূর্বে মিঃ আবু হোসেন সাহেব বিস্তৃত বিবরণ দিয়াছেন। কাপড়ের কল এবং বস্ত্র-শিল্পের উন্নতি সম্বন্ধে আমাদের বাংলাদেশে কি করিবার আছে তাহা আপনারা সকলেই জানেন। বাংলাদেশে বহু কাপড়ের কল হওয়া দরকার এবং গভর্ণমেন্টেরও তাতে উৎসাহ দেওয়া দরকার। আমাদের বাংলাদেশে Sugar Mill বা আঁকের কলের অভাব সম্বন্ধে পূর্ববর্তী বক্তা অনেক বলিয়াছেন এবং এই সুগারের জন্য আমরা জাভাদেশকে কত টাকা দেই তাহাও তিনি দেখাইয়াছেন। ইক্ষু আমাদের দেশে যথেষ্ট হয়, সেজন্য আকের কল করার প্রতি গভর্ণমেন্টের দৃষ্টি দেওয়া দরকার। তাহা হইলে কৃষকের প্রভূত উপকার হইবে। (At this stage the member reached his time-limit.)

আমাকে আর দু-মিনিট সময় দিন।

Mr. SPEAKER : No, I can't.

Maulvi MD. MOZAMMEL HUQ : সময় যখন দিবেন না তাহলে বসাই যাক।

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have listened to a series of theories of a rather novel form of economics to-day. I cannot understand the honourable mover taking us back to the times when the thumbs of the weavers in Dacca were amputated and cut off. The world has changed since then. To talk in 1940 of isolating Bengal industrially and commercially and making it self-sufficient, by putting duties on imports even from the other provinces of India, is a line of thought which will perhaps kill the remaining industries of Bengal. The world has become interdependent and inextricably interrelated. If Bengal has to sell something, Bengal must also buy.

The other point made by one of the speakers opposite, Sir, was that Government must find money for financing industry. This again is a novel idea for, it can be urged, equally forcefully, that Government should not interfere with the normal course of business and industries as a competitor; that the Government should not enter these fields

except as a protector, as one that creates the necessary atmosphere for the advancement and encouragement of commerce and industries. That the Government has tried its best in the very difficult circumstances in which a Provincial Government in India works will be obvious from the schemes that have already been taken in hand. We must remember that a Provincial Government has no control over transportation, freights, import duties, tariffs, and so on. All these are within the scope of the Central Government. A Provincial Government can go so far and no further. Bearing this important fact in mind and realising the handicaps and limitations under which he has to work, I think honourable members opposite will realise that the Hon'ble Minister, who has taken charge of the Department only recently, cannot use a magic wand and turn the industries of Bengal into flourishing institutions in a day.

The other point to which sufficient attention has not been paid to-night, Sir, is that the people of Bengal may have been industrially very advanced in the past, but to-day the tendency of the inhabitants of this territory is not industrially inclined. The Government cannot put its hand into the pocket of the tax-payer and take money to finance industries. If taxation is resorted to, we shall all begin to shout and we shall all begin to protest. I, therefore, repeat, Sir, that Government can only create the necessary atmosphere, pave the way through suggestion, technical advice and even demonstration plants and parties, so that individual financiers or collective financing in the form of Joint Stock Companies and the citizens of the province may come forward and take charge of the industries. I make a distinction, Sir, between cottage and small industries and big and heavy industries, because heavy industries, being national in a sense, Government may, in certain circumstances, finance them. But to blame the Hon'ble Minister for all the ills of the industrial position in Bengal is rather beside the mark.

Among the steps taken to encourage industries and the line of approach adopted by the Government for a solution of the problem, Sir, I would mention the Provincial Research Board, where eminent scientists, industrialists and businessmen have been brought together so that they may tell us what industries we should handle first and how we should go about them. Then it will be for the financier to come on the stage. Progress will be, necessarily, slow but it will be steady. Only such a course will help to solve unemployment and to create intelligent workers and skilled labourers. Sir, Rs. 25,000 were granted last year for the purpose and this year there is an addition of Rs. 10,000 to that amount. Those who have read the news that came from Delhi to-day will find that the Hon'ble the Commerce Member to the Government of India was very happy that Rs. 5 lakhs had been granted for

a similar purpose. Do you not think, Sir, that we have reason to be proud of the fact that we in Bengal took the first step in the matter, and the Government of India has followed in our footsteps?

The second line of approach which Government has adopted is the creation of an Intelligence Section. Here again new ground has been broken. Information is being collected about trades, production, distribution and consumption and the details of every industry are likely to come into our hands as soon as they are ready. But the most important aspect of this industrial intelligence is that the bureau is collecting information on inter-district trade, that is to say, information as to what one district sells to another and what it is likely to purchase. In this way we shall be able to establish an industrial economy within the province which is bound to prove beneficial. The scope of these investigations is likely to be widened which may ultimately help us to find out how Bengal can sell its products outside the province in other parts of India and what are the things Bengal should buy from other provinces. Before we advance we should know the terrain we are going to march over.

The third line of attack is the industrial survey of the province. There is, as I see, a difference of opinion on this subject. Hon'ble members think that we are not marching fast enough. The Hon'ble Minister feels that each step has to be taken very carefully and cautiously. But I feel, Sir, that through these three line of approach we shall soon find ways and means of re-establishing our industries on a sound and expanding basis.

There was another line of approach which was actually followed by the Government, in the only way it reasonably could. Honourable members have complained that Government does not spend enough money on the encouragement of old and established industries and the establishment of new ones. The State Aid to Industries Act has been doing what it could in this direction within its limited scope. But the Government went further and elaborated a scheme of subsidising industries by guaranteeing the losses and meeting half the running expenses for a fixed number of years of a scheme of industrial credit. The effort, unfortunately, fell on evil days and has failed to materialise into the expectations that were entertained of it. My suggestion to the Hon'ble Minister is that the sooner he extricates the Government out of it the better.

Before I sit down, may I, as Chairman of the Bengal Board of Industries, draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the request made by the Board for an early amendment of the State Aid to Industries Act. There are discrepancies in it, and we of the Bengal Board of Industries think that we are rather handicapped in the scope of our work. We have at the moment only one duty and that is to lend money

to certain well-defined and well-established industries, but we want to go ahead, and I hope the Hon'ble Minister will pay attention to our request and take in hand this problem in all seriousness. The other request I have to make is that if this House grants money for any industrial project it should not be held up for what is known as administrative sanction. I know that there are administrative difficulties, but it should be the duty of the department to see that the Finance Department or any other department that has anything to do with a project does not keep the scheme hanging on although we have sanctioned money in this House for that purpose. If the Hon'ble Minister will kindly take note of the points that I have tried to place before him, I think that we may well expect better progress during the coming year.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is somewhat distressing to me to find that the time at my disposal is very short, and so it will not be possible for me to reply to all the points that have been raised by my honourable friends in this House.

Sir, like yesterday I would first of all thank those of my friends who have given certain helpful suggestions. Those suggestions will be taken into careful consideration. Although it will not be possible for me to refer to all the points raised here, I think the reply that has been given by my honourable friend Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi has relieved my burden to a great extent. I endorse his speech to a very great extent. His speech provides a reply to some of the important points raised by the Opposition on the floor of this House.

Sir, as regards Maulvi Abu Hossain Sarkar, I would like to say that in the midst of all the things he has said he adumbrated a very queer proposition, viz., that the reason for the Muslim community being behindhand in the field of industry is the mentality created by the preachings of the Muslim League. [Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: A man who could say that should be hanged at once! (Laughter.)] Sir, a gentleman who can bring forward a proposition like this—I think it is futile to argue with him. (Cries of "hear, hear," from the Coalition benches.) He says that Bombay has 222 cotton mills whereas Bengal has only 17. Now Bengal has a large number, but still that number is far below that of Bombay. My friend eulogised the Congress for starting the industrial mentality in Bengal. (Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: You also said that a few years back.) But I ask, how is it that that mentality has helped Bengal to establish only 17 cotton mills up till now? (Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Not 17 but 47.) All right, I accept it. And is it the Congress mentality in Bombay that has helped the people of that province in establishing 222 mills? The proposition is absurd. Bengalis do not want to take to industries, they only know best how to serve as clerks, and they

complain that industries, trade and commerce are not developed in this province. As long as we do not shed that mentality, our province cannot look forward to real progress in the field of industries. (Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: What has the Government done?) Sir, I have no time to reply to such interruptions.

As regards the establishment of cotton mills by Government, I think my friends have got a very convincing reply from Mr. Siddiqi. Government cannot enter into competition with private enterprise anywhere and everywhere. The cotton mill industry is established fairly well in many provinces and also to some extent in Bengal. The greatest difficulty of Bengal in regard to that is the want of good cotton. If Bengal could produce long staple cotton in sufficient quantity, that would be of great help to the cotton industry in this province. Government is trying its best to produce long staple cotton in this province with that end in view. But, Sir, so far as some other industries are concerned, the position is different. Those industries which are still growing and which require patronisation or help from the Government certainly deserve encouragement. I would refer to the sugar industry for example. The question is somewhat complicated. A short while ago there was a movement that there should be no more augmentation of that industry in India, because that would lead to overproduction and consequently the industry will suffer. The same plea has also been raised by my honourable friend Mr. Clark here, but there is one thing. So far as the sugar industry is concerned, Bengal has not yet come to its own. Therefore, it is very difficult to accept the position that there should be no further increase of sugar mills in this province. I think that there is a good field for the increase of sugar mills in this country. Government is examining the proposal for helping the growth of sugar mills in this province. Of course the all-India point of view is also an important one and should not be altogether neglected, but the provincial point of view is also equally, if not more important.

Then, Sir, my friend Mr. Surendra Nath Biswas, yes, my very esteemed friend Mr. Biswas, complains that the policy pursued by Government will not do any good to the country. He wants production and more production, but simple production will not do. We want more economic, more remunerative production. If my friend eats less than he evacuates one can very easily see that death is at his door. The great problem is that the cost of production should be decreased as far as possible. Unless industrial production is made more economic, no benefit will accrue by mere production. Over-production will lead to ruin and that is why the Government is trying to invent and find out methods whereby production can be made more economic, more remunerative. The cost of production has to be reduced to the minimum. He has said that so far as the question of helping the

handloom weaving industry is concerned one important consideration is that the mills should be debarred from producing stuffs with yarn below a certain count. He also says that the Government of India has taken up this question. That I think is a move in the right direction, and I hope the Government of India will do all that is possible. My friend says that the Government of Bengal also can pass a legislation imposing a ban on cotton mills. That is not a feasible proposition. There I do not agree with my friend at all. How can Bengal legislate for the whole of India? What benefit will accrue to Bengal if the Bengal cotton mills are debarred from weaving stuff with yarn below a certain count while all other mills in the rest of India will be going on merrily doing as they like? Therefore, my friend has not looked at this question from the practical point of view at all, and I think for that reason he has committed a serious mistake. I think my friend Mr. Abdulla-al-Mahmood hit on the right point when he said that for helping our weavers one of the best things will be to produce a yarn or to supply them with yarn at a cheaper rate and with that end in view a spinning mill or several spinning mills should be established in Bengal. That seems to be a very attractive proposal and Government has already been examining that question, and I think something may come out of it, although it is premature for me now to say anything definite on that point. Whatever is possible for the Government of Bengal within its own limits will be done. Those limits are financial as well as otherwise. The limits which a provincial Government labours under are those of tariff, freight, import duty and things like these. Therefore what the Government of India can do the Government of Bengal cannot obviously do. My friend compares Bengal with Japan. Does such a comparison at all stand to reason? (Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu: Does the Bengal Cabinet stand comparison with the Japanese Cabinet?) Therefore those who compare the Bengal Cabinet with the Japanese Cabinet I think are not in their senses. Then, Sir, although I disagree with most of what my friends on the opposite side say on almost all occasions I agree with my friend Mr. Manmatha Nath Roy as regards one point, namely, that very little money is provided for the Industries Department. I fully agree with these observations, and I think my friend will also agree when the Government comes forward in the future with proposals for fresh taxation for the purpose of feeding and developing the industries and other nation-building concerns of this province. (Cries of "no, no" from the Congress Benches.) Then, Sir, some of my other friends have said that there is no planning, nothing of the kind in Bengal. So far as this is concerned Mr. Siddiqi has given a good reply. I would again remind the House of the fact that an Industrial Survey Committee has already been appointed. That committee is still working and has submitted two interim reports. Will it not be in the fitness of things to wait for the recommendations of that committee? When their

recommendations are submitted these will be the basis of a comprehensive plan for the industrial development of the province. Of course we are somewhat late, but that could not be helped. I think, Sir, although we are somewhat late, the committee will be able to make its report in time so as to enable the Government of Bengal to frame a scheme and just to give it a start during their term of office. It may not be possible for this Government to finish everything, but I hope that they will be able to give a good start provided my friends in this House help the Government by voting the necessary money for giving that start. I do not think I need take any further time of the House. I oppose all the motions and commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The motion of Maulvi Abu Hossain Sarkar that the demand for Rs. 15,12,000 under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Amrita Lal Manda that the demand for Rs. 15,12,000 under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Surendra Nath Biswas that the demand for Rs. 15,12,000 under the head "43—Industries—Industries" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan that a sum of Rs. 15,12,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" was then put and agreed to.

43—Industries—Cinchona.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKUT: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 5,59,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Cinchona".

Mr. SPEAKER: I may tell Mr. Maqbul Hossain that his amendment does not arise. This department is responsible only for the production of quinine, distribution thereof is in charge of the Medical and Public Health Departments. I am afraid therefore that your issue is entirely wrong, and Dr. Sanyal is not here to argue the case for you.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move, on behalf of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal, that the demand of Rs. 5,59,000 made under the head "43—Industries—Cinchona" be reduced by Rs. 100.

My object in moving this motion is to raise a discussion regarding the failure of Government to adopt a policy of extension of the cinchona cultivation and the production and sale of Government quinine, failure of the present arrangement for the sale and distribution of Government quinine and reorganisation of the Cinchona Department.

Sir, I would like to speak a few words in this connection. In the beginning let me take up the report of the Government for the year 1937-38 and let this be the basis upon which I can criticise Government regarding its policy, programme and principle. In that very report we find the top heavy expenditure of this department. One quinologist is drawing Rs. 11,900 per annum. I don't see any reason whatsoever for that, and I do not think that a quinologist has got such special qualifications as to draw such a heavy amount from revenues. Secondly, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the fact that though there is ample scope for the cultivation of cinchona within the country, Government is deliberately and persistently importing it from other countries.

Then, Sir, the most surprising part of the report is this. One Mr. Wilson, officer in charge of the enquiry, was deputed under the auspices of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research with a view to discovering new areas suitable for the cultivation of cinchona. We do not know what are the special qualifications of this gentleman, Mr. Wilson, whose name has been dragged into this report—of course we do not mean any disrespect whatsoever to that gentleman.

When we come to the next paragraph we find Government saying, "After 80 years of domestication, cinchona still remains a plant of very fastidious habits" and many other things. If I have understood the position rightly, Government have been making experiments for the last 80 years, and still they are trying through Mr. Wilson to discover new areas, some new places and some new hills. I do not know whether the purpose is the cultivation of cinchona or to have a tour round the country to draw travelling allowance form this poor province. This is what the Government report says. They are investigating, they are trying and deputing Mr. Wilson and perhaps asking others to find out some suitable plots for the cultivation of cinchona. That is really surprising.

Then, Sir, I would like to come to the point which vitally affects the interests of the people of Bengal. It is an acknowledged fact, and this fact has been corroborated by the report of the Government that "Bengal is one of the provinces most seriously affected by malaria. It has been fortunate in its success up to date in establishing a cinchona industry". That is what the Government report says. But what is the total output of quinine in this province? If my information is correct, I think about two years back the Central Government invited

different provincial Governments to discuss this point whether cinchona plantation could be taken up on a large scale in India, and, if my information is correct, I think there was some controversy between the then Minister, Mr. Nausher Ali and Sir Jagadish Prasad. The Central Government wanted to coerce us, if I may be permitted to use that expression, not to extend the area and to restrict it so that the imports could come in the usual course. It is something like an official document and if that document is brought to light, I think many things will be disclosed. It is the duty of the present Minister to fight on and on as the then Minister fought for the benefit of Bengal. Of course, it is the lookout of the Minister and his department to see how far they can proceed, and how far they can resist and how far they can gain by mutual co-operation with the Central Government.

Then, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to one staggering fact. The total population of Bengal, I think, is 5,50,00,000 of which the adult population is 3½ crores. Out of 3½ crores of adult population, due to malaria alone, on an average every one of them sustains a loss of 15 working days and if we proceed with the calculation the average financial loss due to malaria comes to about Rs. 7 per head and the total financial loss incurred by the total adult population suffering from malaria amounts to Rs 24½ crores. Just imagine what a tremendous loss it is for the province of Bengal due to malaria.

Then, Sir, I come back again to the report of the Government and proceed with my observations on the basis of that report. In paragraph 10, we find that the profit for the year 1937-38 is Rs. 8,31,818-8. But if there is any profit what harm can there be for the Government in proceeding with the cultivation on an extensive scale? Had there been a question of loss and had there been a question of any further loss, I could understand the Government thinking fifty times before proceeding further, but Government say in their own report that there is a definite amount of profit. I do not see any reason whatsoever why we should not extend the cultivation within the province.

When we come to the quality of the thing produced, we have information that the quality has deteriorated and according to the report of the chemical analysis made by the Bio-chemical Standardisation Laboratory only 16 per cent. of the strength was available in quinine. If that is the sort of deterioration that has taken place, I do not know what Government can do for a province like Bengal where the number of deaths is abnormal and daily increasing. I would request the Hon'ble Minister to find ways and means of improving the situation and extending the cultivation. With all these defects, no Government can expect that their demand will be sanctioned without any censure or cut motion whatsoever. With these words, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble Mr. PRASANNA DEB RAIKUT: Sir, I oppose the cut motion which has just been moved by Mr. Atul Krishna Ghose.

The motion of Mr. Atul Krishna Ghose that the demand of Rs. 5,59,000 under the head "43—Industries—Cinchona" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Prasanna Deb Raikut that a sum of Rs. 5,59,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Cinchona" was then put and agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 9-30 p.m. to-night.

(The House was then adjourned till 9-30 p.m. to-night).

(After adjournment.)

Motions regarding amendment of the Order-in-Council, 1936.

Mr. SPEAKER: I would like to know if Government are going to move their amendment.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am told that there is likelihood of unanimity in this House over Mr. Sarker's motion. So, Mr. Sarker may move his motion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I should like to move my motion——

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Sir, I submit that it would be much better if I may suggest that Dr. Sanyal may first move his motion of which he has given notice and he may speak in support of it. If Mr. Sarker thereafter moves his motion, probably Dr. Sanyal will see his way to withdraw his motion by the leave of the House so that Mr. Sarker's motion may be passed unanimously.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have no objection.

Special motion under rule 95(1) of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Bengal should take immediate steps to represent to the proper authorities that any modification of the Government of India (Distribution of Revenues) Order in Council, 1936, as per section 138 of the Government of India Act, 1935, should ensure allocation to the Province of Bengal of her due share in any tax on income, other than agricultural income, including Excess Profits Tax, particularly in view of the state of the finances of this Province.

Sir, I am grateful to you for having afforded me an opportunity to raise a discussion on such a matter of great interest to this Province and particularly for having exacted from our none too generous Government some amount of time for a debate on this subject on the floor of this House.

On the 17th of February last, news was received in Calcutta of a certain debate in the House of Commons held on the 15th February which for the first time brought to our notice that attempts were being made to modify the basis for the allocation of a portion of the income-tax proceeds to the Provinces in India as was arranged under His Majesty's Order-in-Council of 1936 relating to the distribution of revenues in pursuance of the provisions of section 138 of the Government of India Act, 1935. It was then reported that with a view to enable the Central Government to retain a sufficient portion of the income-tax revenue and in order to maintain its solvency under War conditions this modification was sought to be made and that the scheme put forward was the result of discussions between the Centre and the Provinces. Sir Hugh O'Neill, the Under-Secretary of State for India, while dealing with the Distribution of Revenues (Amendment) Order explained that owing to the War some alteration in the method of distribution was necessary if the Central Government was to be saved from the prospect of a heavy deficit. But, at the same time, he assured that the amount of income-tax which the Provinces would receive under the new formula would be nearly half as much again as the estimate made under the old formula in 1939-40 and the hope was further held out that in the next year the Provinces would do even better.

On the 21st February the Associated Press brought further light in this connection from Simla and New Delhi and it was then that we could have some idea of the definite lines in which changes were sought to be effected. Immediately on the following day, that is, on the 22nd February, when the amendments were still awaiting passage in Parliament, I gave notice of my motion and I felt that in view of the great urgency of the matter and the importance of the question an early

opportunity would be provided for a discussion on this question. I regret that the Government could not see their way to accede to my suggestion earlier and I am sorry that in some respects our debate to-night might prove to be mere post-mortem examination of a *fait accompli*. In any event, I trust members of various sections in this House will apply their mind to this important question free from party prejudices and, a confirmed optimist as I am, I hope that there may be yet an opportunity created for securing to the Province of Bengal justice and fair dealings, if all parties in the House with one voice formulate a united demand in connection with the subject under discussion.

Sir, ever since the middle of the 19th century when the Provinces were but mere local administrations of a highly centralised Government having no separate finances of their own, the relationship between the Central Government and the Provinces in fiscal and financial matters has caused considerable misgivings and step by step the financial status of the Provinces was raised until, in 1919, the revenues of the provinces were separated from those of the Central Government. But the financial control was still vested in the Secretary of State and the Financial Settlement of 1919, known as the Meston Settlement, caused a serious strain in the relations between the Government of India and the Provincial Governments. The burden imposed thereby on the province of Bengal was admittedly most iniquitous. When the Government of India Act of 1935 was passed it was realised by the Parliament that the success of the Reforms would depend very largely on the financial position of the Provincial Governments and having regard to the difficulties and uncertainties it was decided that before giving effect to Part III of the Act relating to Provincial Autonomy there should be a separate enquiry into the financial position of the Provinces, the special circumstances required by each, and the time and mode of distributing the Provincial share of the income-tax. Accordingly, after some investigations by the Peel Sub-Committee and Percy Committee, Sir Otto Niemeyer conducted an enquiry, and assistance to the Provinces was provided under His Majesty's Order-in-Council of 1936 on the lines suggested in his Report. It was then recognised that any forward policy in Provincial Autonomy would only be successful if the Provinces were assured stability and expansiveness in their finances.

The Niemeyer Award had ever since come to be regarded as the bed-rock of provincial finances and various measures have been adopted in building up the social and economic life of the Provinces in the expectation that the arrangements provided under the Niemeyer Award would remain sacrosanct. Under the circumstances, the recent amendments to the Government of India (Distribution of the Revenues) Order, 1936, came as a shocking surprise. It belies all expectations

and tears asunder what has been regarded as the sheet-anchor for Provincial finances since the inauguration of the Provincial Autonomy. It is, therefore, very necessary that the implications of the amendments effected during recent weeks should be fully examined and every possible step should be taken to preserve and protect the interests of the Province of Bengal.

Let me briefly explain to the House the position that was secured under the old Order-in-Council and that created as a result of the amendments which have been recently brought into effect. Section 138 of the Government of India Act, 1935, relates to the division of Income-tax as between the Provinces and the Federation and lays down that taxes on income other than agricultural income shall be levied by the Federation but should be shared with the Provinces in a prescribed percentage. How exactly this should be shared and the period for which the share should subsist was left to be determined by subsequent Orders-in-Council. In accordance with the recommendations of Sir Otto Niemeyer, the actual percentage and the period were fixed by the Government of India (Distribution of Revenues) Order, 1936. According to this Order the Centre was permitted to retain for all time 50 per cent. of the divisible income-tax receipts and during the first five years of Provincial Autonomy an additional share out of the remaining 50 per cent. as would make a total retention by the Centre of Rs. 13 crores inclusive of the contribution from the Railway Revenues. In the second five-year period there would be a gradual and automatic reduction of the amount retained by the Federation starting from the actual contribution made in the last year of the first period so that at the end of the full period of 10 years from the commencement of Provincial Autonomy the Provinces would be entitled to their full share of 50 per cent. allotted under section 138 of the Act. The relevant portion of the Distribution of the Revenues Order of 1936 as it stood before the amendment is as follows:—

"6(*1*) The first of the periods to be prescribed by His Majesty in Council under sub-section (*2*) of the said section one hundred and thirty-eight shall be five years from the commencement of Part III of the Act, and the sum to be retained by the Federation under that sub-section shall, in each of those years, be either the whole of the moneys assigned by sub-section (*1*) of the said section to Provinces and States, or such part thereof as will together with—

(*a*) the Federation's share of the divisible net proceeds of the taxes on income for that year; and

(*b*) the sum, if any, to be brought into account by the Federation under sub-paragraph (*3*) of this paragraph (Railway Contribution) amount to thirteen crores of rupees whichever is the less.

The amendment recently effected seeks in the first instance to delink the Railway Finances from the calculation of allocable surplus and in the second place fixes the contribution to the Centre in the first quinquennium at Rs. 4½ crores in each year from the third to the fifth year as against the present variable contribution. The amendment comes into force retrospectively from 1st April, 1939.

The effects of the amendment are as follows:—

(1) In the first place, the contribution from the Railways to Central Revenues having been excluded from the basis for calculating the extent of retention by the Centre the benefits that the Provinces are hoping to get from the increased prosperity of the Railways are not likely to accrue any more:

(2) Secondly, from the net divisible Income-tax proceeds a fixed amount of Rs. 4½ crores having been assured to the Centre during each of the three years 1939-40, 1940-41 and 1941-42 the share of the Provinces in the increased yield of Income-tax revenue will be limited and compared to what the allocable surplus to the Provinces would have been under the old arrangement the surplus available under the new dispensation would be very much less:

(3) Thirdly, since the progressive diminution of the Centre's share during the second five-year period is based on the amount appropriated in the last year of the first five-year period, the Centre will receive a very much larger share in the second quinquennium from 1942-43 to 1946-47 and the corresponding loss to the Provinces will amount to a huge figure.

I would like to illustrate the above with reference to a few actual and revised figures available so far. If "I" represents the total pool of divisible Income-tax, "X" stands for the additional retention by the Centre, "P" the Provincial allocable surplus, and "R" is equal to the Railway contribution to General Revenues, then under the old arrangement "X", i.e., the amount that would go to the Centre from out of the Provincial surplus allocable to the Provinces, would be equal to 13 crores—(I/2 × R). "P", i.e., the Provincial share, would be equal to I/2 − "X", i.e., equal to I/2 − 13 + I/2 + R, or equal to I + R − 13, provided "P" does not exceed I/2. This is the formula. I am shortly going to explain to you with reference to actual facts how the formula works out. Under the new arrangement "R" does not come into the picture at all, and "P", i.e., the Provincial allocable surplus, is equal to I/2 *minus* 4·5 crores, which is a fiexed figure.

Applying the above formula to the actual figures for 1937-38, when the divisible Income-tax was Rs. 11·55 crores and the Railway contribution amounted to Rs. 2·83 crores, the Provincial allocable surplus under the old arrangement was Rs. 11·55 crores *plus* 2·83 (that is, the

Railway Contribution) *minus* 13 crores, which has been mentioned as the total amount which the Government of India would in any case retain. This leaves 1·38 crores as the balance available for distribution to the Provinces. Bengal's share being 20 per cent. of the total Provincial pool the amount payable to this Province was more than Rs. 27 lakhs. In the Red Book, I may here mention, the figure is slightly less. It is very difficult to find out how that figure has been arrived at, because the other figures that I have quoted have all been taken from the statement of either of Sir Jeremy Raisman in the Central Legislature or the statement made by the Railway Member in presenting the Railway Budget. If the new formula however was applied on 1937-38 figures, the total provincial allocation would amount to 11·55/2 *minus* 4·5 crores (which is a fixed figure), or equal to 1·27 crores and Bengal's share would be only 25 lakhs or at least 2 lakhs less than what was obtained under the old formula. So, the total result is while under the old arrangement in 1937-38 we got upwards of 27 lakhs, if the new arrangement was applied we would get only 25 lakhs. At that stage the actual amount contributed by the railways was very small and as a consequence the expansion in the subsequent railway and income-tax collections did not have any effect on the increase of provincial surplus at that period.

Taking 1939-40 figures when the divisible income-tax stands under revised estimate at Rs. 13·76 crores and railway contribution to General Revenues is estimated at 3·61 crores the total provincial allocation, together with an arrear of Rs. 41 lakhs for 1938-39 as mentioned in Sir Jeremy Raisman's speech would amount to Rs. 4·68 crores, whereby the contribution receivable by Bengal would be about Rs. 94 lakhs. You might remember, Sir, that while speaking on the general budget discussion our Deputy Leader mentioned that in case the revision of Otto Niemeyer Reward did not take place Bengal would have received nearly a crore of rupees instead of merely half a crore which at the present moment Bengal is likely to receive. Under the new formula Bengal's share is reduced by nearly Rs. 40 lakhs as follows:—

Bengal would be now receiving 13·76/2 *minus* 4·50 crores (which is a fixed contribution that would go to the Centre) *divided by* 5 (which will be Bengal's share), i.e., Rs. 55 lakhs.

It is highly regrettable that when Bengal is suffering from the burdens of a deficit budget for two successive years proper attempts have not been made to see that in course of the amendments that have been brought into effect the legitimate dues of this province may not be encroached upon.

The recent amendments in the Order-in-Council of 1936 based on Sir Otto Niemeyer's Award have not only been effected in an indecent hurry, cutting at the very root of the much vaunted Provincial

Autonomy and financial freedom of the Provinces, but in some respects it appears that the authors of these amendments have not placed all relevant facts properly before the Parliament and before the public. On the 15th of February when the amendments were under discussion in the House of Commons it was stated that the new formula would secure to the Provinces half as much again as the estimates made under the old formula for the current year. As I have demonstrated above, this statement is positively untrue, misleading and unfair. In India also, Hon'ble Sir Jeremy Raisman, the Finance Member, while introducing his Budget for 1940-41 in the Central Legislature sought to justify the alteration in the Niemeyer formula by his reference to the complete change in the financial situation brought about by the War and stated that according to the revised formula now adopted the share of the provinces on account of the current year will increase to Rs. 2·38 crores and with the arrears of Rs. 41 lakhs due for 1938-39, the amount for distribution to the provinces at the end of March, 1940, will amount to Rs. 2·79 crores. With all respect to the Hon'ble the Finance Member for India I submit that this statement of his also suppresses the real position and misleads the public to feel that a larger allocation is likely to accrue to the Provinces.

Sir, I would not like to anticipate the arguments of my honourable friend Mr. N. R. Sarker and I must leave him to amplify his points which he has indicated in his resolution. I would only like to emphasise that the recent amendment in the Distribution of Revenues Order, 1936, has cut at the very root of Provincial Autonomy, has thrown into uncertainty and instability the courses of Provincial finance thereby making it impossible for us to undertake any scheme of nation-building involving a long and expensive process of work, has prevented Bengal from obtaining the benefits of improved income-tax receipts and better earnings of the railways when such improvements are visible, and is likely to compel the provinces to take recourse to much detested measure of taxation within the provincial sphere.

Sir, it is very regrettable that the Government of India would like to shirk the responsibility of taxation themselves and would compel the Provincial Governments which at the present moment are representative and enjoy a degree of autonomy to take recourse to taxation within the limited sphere of their provincial items. I am prepared to recognise some amount of difficulties created by the War, but I fail to understand the merit of the policy which will spare the Centre from embarking on measures of taxation and loans for meeting its extraordinary commitments and will compel the Provinces to take recourse to various small and inelastic measures of direct and indirect taxation.

There is another baneful effect of the new amendment which I very much apprehend. The delinking of the Railways from the calculation of allocable Provincial surplus will, I am afraid, only go to accentuate the harmful effects that were noticed for some time past in the sphere of Rail-Road competition. As the Provincial Governments henceforward will cease to have any interest in the prosperity of the Railways there is no reason why they should not direct increasing attention to the development of motor traffic and the construction of competitive roads, as in various ways the motors are likely to yield better revenues to the Provinces. In fact, Sir, the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy will bear me out that one of the reasons which were put forward some time ago in the Central Transport Advisory Council meeting that the Provinces should co-operate with the Centre in affording some amount of relief to the Railways in regard to Rail-Road competition—one argument then put forward was that any improvement in the Railway finances would automatically give some amount of relief to the Provinces in the larger share of income-tax. That position is going to be reversed now.

Sir, the effects of the recent amendments will not remain confined merely to the current year or the years immediately following. In view of the change in the basis of the Centre's retention, considerably large amounts will be retained by the Centre during the second five years of the period referred to in the Order-in-Council of 1936. From all calculations the maximum amount that the Centre would be entitled to retain out of the Provincial share of 50 per cent. in the last year of the first five year period under the old arrangement would be a very small figure, hardly exceeding Rs. 1 crore, whereas under the new arrangement the second five-year period jumps off from a fixed contribution of Rs. 4½ crores. This, I submit, is manifestly unfair and I am afraid will render many of our schemes for nation-building work impossible.

It is reported that the Provincial Governments had appreciated the difficulties occasioned in the financial system by the outbreak of the War and accepted the new formula. While replying to a question asked by Lord Snell on February, 27, in the House of Lords, Lord Zetland is reported to have stated that the Provincial Governments were consulted in the matter. Lord Zetland observed that one would have expected that the whole Provincial Governments would as one have raised their voice in opposition but somewhat to his astonishment that was not so. We would like to have in this connection a full and frank statement of facts as to what position the Government of Bengal took in the matter. Sir, I here submit that on that occasion, so far as I remember,—it was towards the end of November or the middle of December—this matter might have been referred to the Government

of Bengal; it was not the present Finance Minister but his predecessor who was in office. I do not know if Mr. Sarker seeks to atone for his past sin by moving a resolution to-night. Let him frankly tell us what attitude he and his Government took in the matter, and why was it that such an important matter was not brought before the House for the opinion of the representatives of the people before Government committed itself to any course whatever. Sir, this is a rather serious question involving not only the fortunes of the Province in the current year and the years immediately following but the financial solvency of the Province for a pretty long time. It is rumoured that the Government of Bengal, particularly the Finance Secretary, had practically acquiesced in the proposal for delinking the Railways and had requested the preservation of a modest amount of Rs. 3 crores as the allocable Provincial surplus which would satisfy the Government of Bengal. I demand an explanation in the name of the members of the House and in the name of the people of Bengal and I urge with all the emphasis that I can command that the Government of Bengal may yet make ample amends to atone for the sins of omission and commission that they have done in this connection so far. I trust that my motion will be accepted without any opposition.

Sir, I may now be permitted to go over the resolutions given notice of by our esteemed colleague Mr N. R. Sarker and the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy. I am glad that the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy has seen the mischief that would be created by the resolution that he proposed to move and he has now withdrawn his intention to move it. But so far as the motion of Mr. Sarker is concerned, I have got one or two observations to make. I have no quarrel with the position taken up by Mr. Sarker. So far as my motion goes, I have kept it delightfully vague. My proposal is for Government to take any measure and to have different kinds of opportunities to enter into negotiations either with the Government of India or His Majesty's Government at Home or with other suitable authorities and through different machineries. But so far as Mr. Sarker is concerned, he conceives of only one method, namely, the procedure of presenting an address through His Excellency the Governor to His Majesty in Council. I would leave it to the House to decide which of the two courses is better. If the House thinks that Mr. Sarker's resolution would be more acceptable to the House in the interest of unity and in the interest of unanimity, I would most gladly withdraw my motion, but would like first of all to see in what respects Mr. Sarker claims that his motion is an improvement on the motion tabled by my humbleself. When I gave notice of my motion—it was on the 22nd February—I wanted to keep the thing pretty open and I wanted definitely to state that the excess profits tax must also be included in the allocable income-tax. That I mentioned in my motion also. I

hope that when Mr. Sarker will have his motion placed before the House, he will make it clear if he also conceives of a similar position of not permitting any interpretation to be put on income-tax so that the excess profits tax may be kept out of account in the allocation of provincial surplus for years to come.

With these words, Sir, I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House. (Loud cheers from the Opposition Benches.)

Motion of address to the Governor under rule 117 of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules.

Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly is of opinion that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor through the Hon'ble the Speaker for communication to His Majesty-in-Council praying that His Majesty-in-Council be graciously pleased to revoke the recent amendment to the Government of India (Distribution of Revenues) Order, 1936, and to restore the *status quo ante* for the following considerations and reasons:—

(1) The Government of India Act, 1935, recognised the claim of the Provinces to half the share of the distributable pool of income-tax; but, as the Railways were not making their proper contribution to the Central Revenue, the Government of India (Distribution of Revenues) Order, 1936, authorised the Central Government to appropriate to themselves as much out of the provincial share of the income-tax as would together with the railway contribution and the Central share of the income-tax make up Rs. 13 crores a year. It was clearly contemplated in this arrangement that any increase in railway contribution to the Central Revenue would release a corresponding amount from the provincial share of income-tax so long appropriated by the Centre to make up its deficiency. And it was, indeed, declared that it would give the province a salutary stake in the railway finances. According to this arrangement, the provinces have so long gone without the bulk of their share of income-tax and their loss was the gain of the Centre who thus were able to make up the deficiency in the normal contribution from the railways. As soon as railway earnings showed a tendency to increase and the provinces were looking forward to their share of the income-tax being released from appropriation by the Centre, the Government of India (Distribution of Revenues) Order, 1936, has been changed to authorise the Central Government to appropriate for themselves a fixed sum of as much as 4½ crores of rupees a year out of the provincial share independently of any increase in railway contributions.

(2) This province, it may be recalled, was most unfairly treated under the old Meston Settlement. This settlement has had a very

deleterious effect on the finances of the provinces. Compared to other provinces, this province could do very little in the way of undertaking schemes of mass amelioration. On the other hand, fresh taxation and severe retrenchment had to be resorted to. This retrenchment was of an order which few of the other provinces even after the introduction of provincial autonomy has given effect to. But in spite of these drastic measures, the provincial budget could not be balanced without the aid of subventions from the Central Exchequer.

(3) The adoption of the Niemeyer Award had in some measure restored financial justice to this province, and it was looking forward to obtaining some relief under this new settlement. The unsettlement of this Award again after little over two years after its adoption will seriously affect its finances.

(4) This province has had two deficit budgets in succession and has not been able to take up for want of funds comprehensive schemes in connection with rural water-supply, public health and education, which it is urgently necessary to carry through with a view to improve the condition of the masses. The Government of India, on the other hand, are comparatively more comfortably placed. The sources of revenue available to the provinces are inelastic while the sources available to the Central Government are elastic and have actually expanded during the year.

(5) The permanency of the financial arrangements as between the provinces and the Centre is essential to foster the sense of responsibility and ensure the success of provincial autonomy. To disturb the arrangements on the first occasion which seemed to mark a turn in favour of the provinces, undermines the foundation of responsibility and is bound to nullify the effect of provincial autonomy.

Sir, I first want to dispose of a few points raised by Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal.

I am very sorry, Sir, that Dr. Sanyal has thought fit to criticise the Finance Secretary in connection with the Bengal Government's opinion about the subject-matter of this resolution. It is not the opinion of the Secretary but the opinion of the Ministry. Secretaries' opinions are often confidential and are not discussed. They are merely advisers to the Ministers who alone are responsible for the decisions. Dr. Sanyal has also brought me personally into the picture and has said that I gave notice of this motion in order to atone for my past sin. I cannot disclose things that happened during my incumbency of office, but this much I can say to him that care or concern for Bengal's financial strength is not his monopoly alone. (Laughter.)

I congratulate my honourable friend, the present Finance Minister, for withdrawing his amendment of which he had given

notice. I am sure, Sir, that by his action he has done a great service to this province. Though we have begun this resolution after dinner still I would like to say whatever I have got to say in a serious mood and not in a light-hearted way.

Sir, through your kind courtesy I have already had a memorandum circulated explaining the technical aspect of the problem, namely, what the Otto Niemeyer Award is, what changes have been introduced by the recent amendment and what will be its effect on our finances generally. From the facts I have supplied in the memorandum it can be seen that, due to the recent changes, the province of Bengal alone will lose about 40 lakhs of rupees during the current year and 86 lakhs of rupees in the year 1940-41 and 90 lakhs in the year 1941-42, that is the end of the first quinquennium. In the next quinquennium the loss due to the present change will probably be over 2¼ crores; thus the total loss would be from now till the end of the 10th year about rupees 4½ crores for the province of Bengal alone. The fixed amount of Rs. 4½ crores per annum for the next three years starting from the current year is said to have been decided upon on the basis of the average of the actual figures for the last three years, which we are told are in the neighbourhood of 4½ crores But there is a snag in it, for what meets the eye is not the entire loss. Because of the amount being fixed at Rs. 4½ crores for the rest of the first quinquennium, the provinces, during the next quinquennium, would be required to pay out of their share much more than they would normally have paid; and it is quite possible that if matters were allowed to take their normal course, the provincial share might never have had to be subjected to any deduction at all in the second quinquennium. So that the net amount of loss that we get from the circumstances as now exist is about 4½ crores to Bengal alone if the change made in the Award is allowed to stand. But I need not here say anything more on the technical aspect of the problem. I will now devote myself to a critical examination of the reasons adduced by Sir Jeremy Raisman on behalf of the Government of India in defence of the recent change made in the Niemeyer Order-in-Council.

Sir, the argument advanced by Sir Jeremy Raisman on behalf of the Government of India in support of the amendment was briefly this. The framers of the Constitution, he says, revealed great anxiety to safeguard the financial stability of the Centre. As evidence of this Sir Jeremy mentions that the Constitution allowed the Centre a period of ten years, constituted of two periods of 5 years each; within this ten-year period the Centre was to adjust itself to the devolution of the revenue by which provinces are ultimately to receive a full 50 per cent. of the income-tax, and further, that under section 138(2), the Government of India Act also provides that if an emergency should arise during the second quinquennium the Governor-General

would have discretionary power to arrest further devolution of income-tax for a period longer than ten years. That the framers of the Constitution as well as Sir Otto Niemeyer were genuinely anxious to safeguard the financial stability of the Centre is an admitted fact, on which nobody would quarrel with Sir Jeremy. But the point on which one feels inclined to join issue with him is this: what they in their admitted anxiety for the financial stability of the Centre provided in the Niemeyer Award represents the highest or maximum of safeguards in the interest of the Centre and there could be no justification for over-stepping even that highest limit. The Joint Parliamentary Committee had recommended that the share of the provinces should be not less than 50 per cent. and not more than 75 per cent. The Niemeyer Award, it will therefore be seen, put the provincial share at the minimum of the scale recommended by the Joint Committee.

Sir Jeremy further holds that the devolution of the full amount, namely, 50 per cent. of the income-tax, cannot take place till after the expiry of ten years from the date of the inauguration of Provincial Autonomy. He is so obsessed with the idea of the rigidity of the ten-year period that he believes, it would appear from his statements, that if a situation were to arise in which under the original Niemeyer Order-in-Council the provinces might have a chance of obtaining their full share before the expiration of ten years, he would be justified in taking measures to correct the situation with a view to preventing the provinces from getting the full share before the ten-year period. This is what he said in the Central Assembly:

"We are faced with a situation in which it was by no means impossible that on the Niemeyer formula one-half of the divisible income-tax would fall to be distributed to the provinces from the third or fourth year of the ten-year period and that the whole scheme which the framers of the Constitution had drawn up in order to enable the Centre to adjust itself to the devolution of income-tax was to be swept away in the course of a few months. I claim, Sir, that is a situation which on any reasonable view was bound to be corrected."

That is what Sir Jeremy said. But Sir Jeremy's contention can hardly be accepted; for it is quite clear from Sir Otto Niemeyer's Report that the period was fixed at ten years, not because there was any inherent sanctity about a ten-year period, but the period was made long enough to provide for uncertainty in regard to the progress of Central revenues in future. In making the period long it was expected that within this period, in any case, the Centre would be able to adjust itself completely to the situation. Sir Otto Niemeyer definitely laid it down

that his scheme was not governed by any rigid time or schedule, but by the happening of certain events. To quote his own words:—

"It will be preferable to base the amounts to be withheld not so much on specific but entirely conjectural dates, but on the realisation of certain concrete events. The power of the Central Government to surrender a share of its revenues will, in fact, depend largely on the extent to which its main expansive revenue head, viz., income-tax, progresses and on the extent to which the Railways move towards attaining a surplus."

That an earlier devolution of the full amount of the provincial share had all along been contemplated by Sir Otto can very well be demonstrated by various other observations made by him in his Report. For example, in reference to super-tax in paragraph 31(*1*) he says:—

"if the remaining surcharge were maintained, it will materially contribute to the early receipt by the provinces of additional resources."

Any doubt of Sir Otto's intentions will be laid completely at rest by the following recommendation he made in regard to the amount to be retained under section 138(*2*) for the second quinquennium. This amount, he said, should be—

"for a second period of 5 years, in the first year five-sixth of the sum, if any, retained in the last year of the first period, etc."

The words "if any" conclusively demonstrate that Sir Otto Niemeyer did not conceive a period of ten years as the irreducible minimum which must elapse before the provinces could obtain their full share of the income-tax. It will become clear to anybody who peruses Sir Otto's Report that he considered, under the circumstances and conditions obtaining at the time of his investigations, a period of ten years a reasonable period at the end of which the provinces might be expected to obtain their full share of the income-tax. But nowhere does he suggest that if the conditions as suggested by the concrete facts to which he refers are fulfilled before the expiry of ten years, the provinces will not even then receive the full quota of their share at an earlier date.

I may also mention, Sir, that anxious as Sir Otto Niemeyer was to safeguard the financial stability of the Centre, he was no less solicitous of the needs of the provinces. He himself writes in paragraph 27 of his Report that—

"having regard to the obvious future needs of the provinces and in order to maintain a reasonable adjustment of relative burdens between the various units, it is clearly very desirable that the maximum practicable distribution should be achieved."

In support of the amendment, Sir Jeremy Raisman next adduces the argument that circumstances have now completely changed and in the emergency now created a change in the Niemeyer Award as has been effected was justified. To quote Sir Jeremy's words:—

"The circumstances have changed completely and claim that they have changed in a manner which Sir Otto Niemeyer could not have been expected to foresee." I would like to submit, Sir, that this is not a fair statement of the situation in which Sir Otto Niemeyer submitted his report. He came here in 1935 and he must have known that in certain years in the past, e.g., in 1930-31 and 1931-32, the Central budget revealed a deficit of over Rs. 11 crores each year. In making his recommendations therefore he could not possibly have failed to take into account such contingencies in regard to the finances of the Centre. Further, the international situation was not very peaceful either. There were troubles in Abyssinia and Spain. Germany had remilitarised the Rhineland and War even then was not an unlikely possibility. Sir Otto Niemeyer must have given serious thoughts to all these problems and possibilities before he formulated his recommendations. I cannot, therefore, Sir, agree with Sir Jeremy Raisman that the circumstances have now changed so radically as to completely vitiate the basis of Sir Otto's formula. On the contrary, it seems to me, Sir, that Sir Jeremy has been unduly severe on the provinces. I may recall in this connection that during the last war, the Governments of the United States of America and some of the Dominions like Australia, Canada and South Africa which had to shoulder the burden of a much heavier defence expenditure than Sir Jeremy has or will have to, did not reduce the subsidies or subventions which under their respective constitutions they are to the States or the provinces. In certain cases, these were even increased. To submit the provinces in India to fresh sacrifices which they can ill afford to make on the plea of war emergency such as it is at present appears to me therefore as unjustified as it is ungraceful.

Let me, Sir, examine for a moment what the Centre gains by this amendment of the Niemeyer Order in Council. The deduction for the current year of about Rs. 2 crores has already been made. In the next two years, over which the war it is at present assumed will last, the Centre will obtain another Rs. 9 crores. Now, Sir, are we to believe that the stability of the Central Finances will be seriously endangered if the provinces were not mulcted of this Rs. 11 crores? The Central Budget does not reveal any such possibility. Further, if necessary, the Government of India should make every effort to retrench administrative cost as well as to tap fresh sources of revenue. It is well-known how all the provinces have drastically retrenched the cost of administration and are ceaselessly engaged in exploring fresh avenues of income. Almost every province has during the last two years enacted

various measures of taxation, small provinces like Bihar, N. W. F. province and Sind not excepted. Can we say the same of the Centre? I am afraid not. Salaries have probably been increased instead of being retrenched. Many of the avenues of taxation are elastic and it cannot be said that the Centre has tapped these fully yet. The full effect of many of its recent taxes again are not yet discernible. The Central Government have by no means been reduced to extreme straits. And there is always the scope of raising money in the last resort by means of loans. Before, Sir, the Central Government call upon the provinces to make onerous sacrifices and before they repudiate what may be regarded as a virtual contract made with the provinces under the Niemeyer Award, they must demonstrate that they have left no stone unturned to meet the situation with which they have been confronted. This they have not done. It may be pertinent to observe in this connection that these were the very conditions imposed on the Bengal Government, namely, retrenchment to the maximum possible extent and the imposition of fresh taxes—in order that they might claim the advantages granted to them under the Niemeyer Award, and these conditions the Bengal Government also actually fulfilled. I fail therefore to find any valid ground or justification for altering the Niemeyer Order-in-Council, the effect of which is to deprive the provinces of their legitimate dues.

Another argument advanced by Sir Jeremy Raisman is that since the Central Government have to bear the burden of defence expenditure, and since income-tax receipts are expected to increase as a result of conditions created by the war, it is but meet and proper that the provinces should not get their due share of this increased yield from income-tax.

The argument, I am afraid, contains a basic fallacy. Where under a federal scheme of Government the resources as well as the functions of the Centre and the Provinces are marked and specified, the entire expenses for the functions of the Centre must be met out of its own revenues; to encroach upon the provincial share of revenues because the defence or any other expenditure of the Central Government had increased was neither logical nor legitimate. Defence is a function of the Centre, and defence does not mean peace-time defence only, but defence on all occasions whether in peace or in war, and it must be a charge on the Central revenues entirely. The arguments that because it is the Centre which undertakes the war expenditure, any increased income arising out of the war must also go to the Centre is hardly tenable under a federal scheme of Government. Logically pushed, this argument must land us in extremely incongruous situations. For example, if a Provincial Government were to give a push to industry, this would probably be reflected in the fiscal sphere in an increase in income-tax receipts and possibly a rise in certain items of customs

revenue; or again, if a province launched upon a vigorous road development policy, railway earnings were likely to increase. Would it be logical for the Provincial Government in such circumstances—and would they be heard if they made a claim for a share of this increased income-tax receipts or railway earnings on the ground that they had to spend more for industry or on roads?

Further, how can one prove that the improvement in income-tax is due entirely to the war situation? Such increased revenue from income-tax was to be expected as was admitted, by Sir James Grigg, in his Budget speech of 1939-40, as a result of the amendment of the Income-tax Act and the introduction of the slab system, and this increase should not be attributed to war conditions. Even before the war, business conditions had improved, profits had incresed and were increasing with the result that the tax-yield therefrom was also growing. Such normal increase should not be attributed to war conditions.

Moreover, those sources of income-tax which come into the provincial pool, for example, salaries, income from investments and from real properties, etc., would not, in the main, receive a fillip due to the war, in some cases they are rather likely to suffer a decline. It is only the income from business which may be expected to show an increase as a result of the war. But even here the largest slice of the tax on business incomes—namely the income from business conducted by companies—would be receivable *in toto* by the Centre. It follows, therefore, that only a very small portion of the actual increased yield from income-tax as a result of war conditions can fall to be distributed to the provinces. Even in this restricted sphere, fifty per cent. of the increased yield, if any, would, in the normal course, go to the Centre in any case. If for such a small thing as this the very basis of the financial arrangements with the provinces is subjected to an alteration, could that inspire the confidence of the provinces?

It can also serve only to create serious misapprehensions among the provinces when they find that only by a stroke of the pen the Centre can change the Niemeyer Award which was the result of such careful investigation, elaborate consultations and meticulous sifting and weighing of facts. It may be that technically the provinces were consulted about the amendment, but I do maintain that the decision of the Central Government in this matter, which so profoundly affects the provincial governments, is to all intents and purposes *ex parte*. In the majority of the provinces the popular ministries have given up office; and the administration is in the charge of the Services. To choose a time when the full voice of the popular representatives of the country could not be heard is, to put it mildly, exploiting the misfortune of the provinces for the benefit of the Centre.

On a careful examination of Sir Jeremy's arguments in support of the recent alteration of the Niemeyer formula what emerges as crystal clear is this: that Sir Jeremy was more concerned with depriving the provinces of their legitimate dues than with the exigencies of war finance such as they are up till now. As both income-tax receipts and the railway contribution to general revenues began to show distinct signs of improvement with the result that it became evident that the conditions laid down by Sir Otto Niemeyer would soon be fulfilled and the provinces would then receive the full quota of their share of the divisible income-tax pool, the Government of India, it appears, lost no time in instituting measures to deprive the provinces of this benefit. I am sorry to have to say that for some time past, the Centre has been evincing a tendency to curb the Provinces, particularly in financial sphere. Its attitude in connection with the Central Provinces Petrol Sales Tax and the limitation of the Employment and Professional Tax are examples of this tendency. The recent amendment of the Niemeyer Order-in-Council is yet another glaring example of the same attitude of mind on the part of the Government of India. In the face of all these, we yet delude ourselves into believing that real Autonomy has come to the Provinces and we yet hope that on the basis of the Government of India Act of 1935, we shall obtain Dominion Status of the Statute of Westminister variety!

Sir, with these words, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

One fact I forgot to mention. Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal asked me why I put the resolution in the form in which I have moved it. My reason, Sir, is this that section 142 of the Government of India Act, 1935, gives indications as to how a change in an Order-in-Council is to be attempted. That is why I have moved for presentation of an address to His Excellency through you, Sir. I hope the motion I have moved will be unanimously accepted by the House. For obvious reasons I have made it a little lengthy, which is not usual in regard to the wordings of a motion.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Sir, may I move my amendment?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am doubtful whether your amendment is in order. I understand the spirit which is behind your amendment. Technically speaking, section 138 of the Government of India Act does not recognise a fixed percentage but a prescribed percentage.

However, your amendment is incomplete for the reason that the main intention of Mr. Sarker is to say that this Government or the

Provinces have a right under the Government of India Act read with the Order-in-Council to a share of 50 per cent. You merely say "a percentage" without showing it.

These are the difficulties with your amendment. I think, Mr. Sarker's motion is much better because by some interpretation it can be interpreted as coming under the Government of India Act read with the Order-in-Council.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I think it would be much better if Mr. Sarker's resolution is amended by adding the words "read with the Order-in-Council" after the words "Government of India Act, 1935".

Mr. SPEAKER: I was also going to suggest that.

Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Sir, I do not exactly follow where the new expression is proposed to be put in.

Mr. SPEAKER: In the second paragraph, about the 8th line from the beginning.

In any case, Mr. Miles, you may speak now.

Mr. C. W. MILES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before discussing the merits and demerits of the revision of the Award, I would like to say that we of this Group are in entire sympathy with the Government in their endeavours to have a fair division of the Income-Tax receipts between the Centre and the Provinces, and we have endeavoured to form our views impartially bearing in mind the principles on which the Award was made and present day conditions.

The ultimate aim of the Niemeyer Award, Sir, was to effect in 10 years an equal division of Income-Tax between the Centre and the Provinces.

In order to protect Central finances in the transitory period, it was arranged that for the first five years, the Centre should receive Rs. 13 crores minimum comprising half Income-Tax receipts, the Railway contributions and the balance from the Provincial half of Income-Tax. After the first five years, the Provincial share would be gradually increased until at the end of 10 years, a fifty fifty basis was established. This was, of course, planned on a peace time basis and now an alteration has been effected for the years 1939-40, 1940-41 and 1941-42. We are convinced that some revision is now imperative and that the Central finances must be protected, otherwise the whole financial structure of India including the Provinces is jeopardised. In other

words, we are strongly of opinion that the Centre should not be embarrassed in their war effort and that any revision should be subject to the war needs of India as a whole.

The amendment has the effect of removing Railway contributions from the calculations, with which we agree—as the Railway policy is to build up its sadly depleted reserves in a time of prosperity.

We then come to the retention of Rs. 4·50 crores by the Centre out of the Provincial half share of Income-Tax receipts.

We have heard from Mr. Sarker that comparing the two bases, in 1939-40, the Provinces would have received Rs. 4·37 crores, instead of that, they will receive Rs. 2·38 crores. Again, in 1940-41, they would have received Rs. 7·30 crores, instead of that, they are due to receive probably Rs. 3 crores. It must, however, be noticed that the Provincial share for 1939-40 amounting to Rs. 2·38 crores is an increase of Rs. 60 lakhs on the Budget estimate for 1939-40 and the estimated Provincial share for 1940-41 of Rs. 3 crores is an increase of Rs. 62 lakhs on the figure for 1939-40. It is not true, therefore, to say that the Provinces will receive under the new arrangement no share in the increased revenues. It will be seen that as far as 1939-40 is concerned, the Provinces do not get roughly Rs. 2 crores—they do not lose but they do not get it—which is severe enough, but for 1940-41, the figure amounts to Rs. 4·30 crores which must be a disappointment—a bitter disappointment. The largely enhanced figure, however, is mainly due to the greater Railway contributions, which are Rs. 3·61 crores in 1939-40 and Rs. 5·30 crores in 1940-41.

We feel, Sir, that in the present circumstances, the Centre is entitled to and requires a large proportion of increased receipts accruing from War conditions and as has been previously mentioned, we have no objection to the Centre retaining the Railway contributions. Income-Tax receipts, however, are entirely on a different footing. These are estimated at Rs. 13·76 crores in 1939-40 and Rs. 15 crores in 1940-41. Inasmuch as the Excess Profits Tax is a prior charge before Income-Tax, it may be said that any increase in Income-Tax receipts is a normal increase, but we feel that this may not be entirely true. Certainly the increase for 1939-40, which is based on the year 1938, so far as trade is concerned, cannot be considered as entirely due to War conditions. (The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: None at all.) We consider in these circumstances that the distribution between the Centre and the Provinces by the retention of Rs. 4·50 crores is inequitable, and that the Provinces can rightly claim a greater share of the Income-Tax receipts. We fully recognise that anything taken from the Centre has probably to be made up by increased taxation; equally we know that we have been threatened with increased taxation in Bengal owing to a deficit Budget. Nevertheless, we feel that the Centre have driven

a hard bargain and in addition have been extremely conservative in their 1939-40 Revised Estimates and their 1940-41 Budget. In these circumstances, we consider that the Provinces are entitled to benefit from any normal increase in Income-Tax receipts when circumstances permit, and therefore, there may be a case for some modification in the revision of the Award. Whatever modification is obtained, we feel, should remain for three years. This suggestion is made having regard to the current income-tax receipts which for the years 1938-39 to 1940-41 show a steady increase. They start in 1938-39 with 13 crores 16 lakhs actual; in 1939-40 with a revised estimate of 13 crores 76 lakhs and in 1940-41 with an estimate of 15 crores. I may say, Sir, that 1938-39 actuals were considerably in excess of the revised estimate and we hope that this will be the case in 1939-40. We agree with Mr. Sarker that there is a case for more favourable treatment for the Provinces, but we submit that the *status quo* is impracticable. If we cannot go to the limit of his amendment, we can at least join in an effort to obtain a revision. But I must again on behalf of this Group stress that the Centre's war requirements are in our opinion of paramount importance.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Do you support my motion, then?

Mr. C. W. MILES: No. (Laughter.)

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am afraid I am at a disadvantage inasmuch as I have not a prepared speech before me to deliver before this House. Sir, when I tabled my amendment, it was with a view to keep the discussion within practical limits, so that in the consideration of this very complex and extremely important problem we should take note of the practicalities of the situation and frame our resolution in accordance with what we may hope to achieve. Sir, I have considerable sympathy with both the motions—that of Dr. Sanyal as well as of Mr. Sarker—and I will support the spirit underlying both. There are certain defects in both of them which it will be my most unpleasant duty to point to the House. Perhaps Sir, Dr. Sanyal's motion gives more latitude for interpretation, but in its turn it is so vague that it leads us nowhere in particular. Mr. Sarker's motion is so definite that if there is any other way out of the present *impasse* it leaves no room to us to explore that avenue. Sir, I leave these two honourable gentlemen to fight it out amongst themselves as to who should give way before the other. For myself, Sir, I support the spirit underlying both the motions (Laughter) and will forward the speeches and the debate to proper quarters for consideration.

Sir, a view has been expressed that it is advisable to place your case high, so that there may be room for bargaining. I do not agree

with that view, Sir. No responsible Government ought to adopt that attitude. We ought to look at things from a practical point of view and if we are certain that the situation has changed to such an extent that we cannot be put back to the position which existed before the Order-in-Council was amended, it is no use asking that we should forget what has taken place and revoke the present Order-in-Council and adopt the Niemeyer Award.

Sir, I am glad to realise that Mr. Sarker has realised that there is a war on. There was no indication of that in the resolution which he tabled before the House. Sir, his resolution is of very great importance. It points out certain very salient facts. The fact that this province has been dealt with in a most niggardly manner by the Meston Award, that it has not been able to develop its beneficent activities, that it has gone in for retrenchment far in excess of any undertaken by any other province, that we have burdened ourselves with taxation in order to meet our deficit, these are pointed out most ably in the resolution and, Sir, it is time that when amendments of Order-in-Council are considered the manner in which Bengal has been financially treated before and even at the present moment should not be lost sight of. But I fail to find, Sir, any appreciation in that resolution of the fact that the amended award has already brought about an alteration in financial adjustments. Almost coincident with the amendment of the Order-in-Council the Railway Member in the Railway Budget has announced the imposition of further charges and taxation in respect of freight and of passenger traffic. It is clear, Sir, that the Centre would never have placed this further surcharge if it was not confident that it would get the benefit of it. It would not increase the railway earnings if the benefit of those railway earnings were to accrue almost wholly to the provinces. We are therefore, Sir, faced with the position that the railway earnings have been increased by a species of taxation from the Centre which have been imposed thereon for the benefit of the Centre and it would be expecting too much of human nature and far too much of the nature of Governments to expect them to reverse the present Order-in-Council and to put back the situation as it was before with the benefit of the increased railway taxation accruing to the provinces. Sir, I beg entirely to agree with the view point which has been taken by Mr. Sarker when he challenges the arguments and the statements of Sir Jeremy Raisman. It is clear Sir, from the report of the speech of the Hon'ble the Finance Member of the Government of India that he seemed to be greatly concerned at the increased revenue or contribution which would be paid to the provincial governments. I wish, Sir, that he had been more sympathetic towards provincial governments in his attitude. I do hope, Sir, that the lead which Bengal is giving on this question will be taken up by

the other provinces and that with a concerted voice we shall press for a reversal of the present Order-in-Council so that fair and equitable justice may be meted out to the provinces.

It will be noticed by the honourable members, as has been pointed out by Mr. N. R. Sarker and Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal, that the present Order-in-Council proposes to take away from the provincial share of the divisible pool or rather from half the divisible pool Rs. 4·5 crores for a period of three years. I have been attempting, Sir, to find out how this figure of 4·5 crores has been arrived at. Sir Jeremy Raisman has supplied the answer. He states that this is approximately what the Centre could retain according to the budget estimates for the current year. I regret to have to say that arguments of this nature are wholly fallacious and ought never to have been advanced by the Hon'ble the Finance Member of the Government of India. From the scanty reports of the utterances of the Secretary of State it would appear that the Secretary of State was under the belief that the new amended Order-in-Council was giving to the provinces a larger share, a larger income than they would have been entitled to under the unamended Order-in-Council, or at least that the provinces were getting a larger amount than what they would have been entitled to under the first proposals of the Government of India. Sir, I feel that the Secretary of State has been misled. I cannot possibly believe that it was his purpose to mulct the Provincial Governments so mercilessly without any rhyme or reason. The old Order-in-Council is being amended to the detriment of the provinces; the Railway earnings are being taken away for ever when they show a sign of increase. And what are we going to get in return? We do not get even that contribution which should have come to us. If the money that was to be given to us under the Order-in-Council had been given to us, we could have done something. The figures, Sir, which induced or rather misled the Secretary of State to retain 4½ crores from the divisible pool are based, as I have just pointed out, on the budget figures of the previous year. Why should, Sir, the budget figures have been taken as a criterion, when in February or when the Order-in-Council was amended, the revised figures were before the Government? They knew what the income for nine months was previous to making up their minds as to what should be retained by the Centre. Again, Sir, it is known from the previous budgets of the Government of India that the budget estimate of income-tax is notoriously lower than the actuals, as has been pointed out by Mr. Miles.

Sir, the budget figures show, as follows: the divisible pool, Rs. 12·65 crores and the Railways 2·13 crores—this makes a total of 14·78 crores; deduct from that Rs. 13 crores under the Order-in-Council, which must go to the Centre, and that leaves 1·78 crores available for the provinces.

Now, Sir, half of the income-tax is 6·32 crores; deduct from that 1·78 crores. The amount retained by the Centre by this calculation is 4·5 crores. It is this figure, 4·5 crores, which has been accepted by the Secretary of State as the standard.

I hope I am clearer in my exposition than the mathematical formula which has been placed before the House by Dr. Sanyal.

Sir, the revised figures in the possession of the Government of India at the time when the Order-in-Council was being amended, are as follows: Divisible pool—income-tax, 13·76 crores, Railways 3·61 crores: —the total 17·37 crores; deduct from that 13 crores that leaves a balance of 4·37 crores. Now, Sir, half of the divisible pool is Rs. 6·88 crores. From that deduct the Provincial contribution which is 4·37 crores; that leaves only 2·51 crores to be kept by the Centre. Sir, on no account could the Centre have retained more than 2·51 crores under any Order-in-Council. And it is deplorable, Sir, that the Hon'ble the Finance Member of the Government of India should have based the retention by the Centre on notoriously incorrect budget figures and should have induced the Secretary of State to accept them. (Cries of "Hear, hear" from the Congress Benches). Sir, as has been further pointed out by Mr. Miles, in all probability even the revised estimate of income-tax, namely, 13·76 crores will be less than the actuals: and I think, Sir, that it would have been fairer to the Provinces if the amount to be retained by the Centre had been based on actuals. That Sir, in all probability would leave only 2 crores for the Centre, and starting from that we could have proceeded to increase the Provincial contribution annually by deducting, say, 7/8 of 2 crores annually.

Now, Sir, a suggestion was thrown out that the Provincial Government, viz., the Bengal Government accepted the proposals of the Government of India. (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: It is definitely stated by Lord Zetland.) Sir, the statement sent out from England, purported to have been made by the Secretary of State, came to us as a surprise (Cries of "Hear, hear" from the Congress Benches), and I am authorised to say, Sir, that His Excellency the Governor wired back to ascertain how that statement came to be made. (Cries of "Hear, hear" from the Congress Benches.) I am further authorised to state, Sir, that the Secretary of State has stated that he was not referring to the Bengal Government. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What was Bengal Government's opinion, please?) That remains confidential. On the other hand, the constructive suggestions sent up by the Bengal Government were appreciated by him to the extent that he was able to modify the original proposals of the Government of India for the benefit of the Provincial Government.

It is clear however from the speech which I have made that we are not at all satisfied even with the modification that has been made

by the Secretary of State and we shall certainly join with all the members of this House in pressing for a modification of the amended Order-in-Council. Sir, I base my claim—and I think all of us would be justified in basing our claim—not merely on the financial stringency of this province. We are badly off—that is our misfortune—but mere financial stringency of this province will not get for us the co-operation of other provinces which are better off, particularly of that province or those provinces which will get the benefit of an increase in the defence budget of the Government of India. I base my claim for a revision on justice and fairplay and there is no justification, I maintain, for taking away a larger share from the provinces by an Order-in-Council than would have been taken away, had the award remained in existence. I ask the honourable members of this House to consider that the income tax is based on 1938-39 figures, which cannot possibly be held to have been affected by war conditions. I do not admit that the provinces are not entitled to the increase in the income-tax or in the income of the railways due to war. I do not give up my claim to that, but even if the Secretary of State is impressed by the arguments of the Government of India that inasmuch as the Government of India have to bear the war expenditure, they should also get the benefit of the war income even then I say what justification is there for their not giving to the provinces the full credit of income tax which is based on the pre-war figures, namely, for 1938-39? What justification is there for not giving to the provinces from the Centre the benefit of the railway income when it is only recently that the war has overtaken us and when it has been admitted by the Railway Member that the diminution in the railway income for some time past was due to hesitancy in the transit of goods due to fear of war? So that, Sir, when war has come and goods are in transit this merely brings to the railway exchequer that freight which would have accrued to the benefit of the Centre and the provinces, had there been no war at all. I submit, Sir, that the actuals must be taken into consideration, and under those conditions, Sir, I believe,—no, there is no question of believing—I am quite certain—that some measure of justice would be meted out to the provinces. I, on behalf of the Government of Bengal, beg once more to voice my entire sympathy with both the motions that have been moved.

(Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarker rose.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Is it necessary, Mr. Sarker, for you to exercise your right of reply? If you do so, I hope you will be very short.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, if Mr. Sarker has a right of reply I have an equal right of reply. If the right of reply is to be given to anybody that right must be given to me in the first instance.

Mr. SPEAKER: If, Mr. Sarker, you rise to reply then the Hon'ble the Finance Minister may have to reply to your points again. But in any case I hope you will be very brief.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I hope that in this House there is no difference between an ex-Finance Minister, the present Finance Minister and myself, only a member of this House. So, Sir, I do not see why I too should not be given the right to reply.

Mr. SPEAKER: All right Dr. Sanyal, we will see how things shape.

Mr. NALINI RANJAN SARKER: Sir, my honourable friend the present Finance Minister, has obliged us by giving his blessings to both the resolutions, but from the speech that I have heard from him it appears that he wanted to satisfy not only the two of us but also the demands of Mr. Miles, the representative of the European Commercial Community. So, Sir, I congratulate my honourable friend that, whereas from my own experience I found that it is so difficult for a Finance Minister to satisfy the demands of even one man, he has learnt so much within this short period as to be able to satisfy the demands of even three.

Dr. Sanyal wants not only to return to the *satus quo* but he also wants to get a share of the excess profits tax. But, Sir, I only wanted the *status quo ante*. My friend Mr. Miles, however, has asked that some justice should be done to the Centre as it is overburdened with war expenditure. And the Finance Minister, Sir, has found it possible to show his sympathy to all the three viewpoints. He has said that my proposal is impracticable, and he has also said that it is useless to bargain. If return to *status quo* be dismissed as impracticable, how can my friend Mr. Suhrawardy, as a politician, stand for complete independence though he knows that it is not an immediately practicable proposition? So far as Railway Revenue is concerned, Mr. Suhrawardy says that any increase due to war conditions must be retained by the Centre. Sir, all increase in Railway earnings goes as a matter of fact to the Central Budget. Provinces do not directly obtain any share of an increase in the Railway earnings. But the provinces are linked with the railways, because Sir Otto Niemeyer wanted that provinces also should take interest in the improvement of Railway earnings. I am quoting here his exact words on this point. "It is in my view very desirable to give both the Central Government and the provinces an interest in securing these results and a share in these advantages if and as soon as that can be achieved". The railway was linked with the distribution of income-tax

because Sir Otto Niemeyer wanted that the provinces must have some interest in the railways so that by their activities they do not prove hostile to the railway finances.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to add a few words only by way of reply to one or two points raised by Mr. Miles. Mr. Miles has sympathy for everybody—for the British Government in the first instance, for the Central Government thereafter and he has also some little sympathy left for the province, but unfortunately for me I could not find that he had any sympathy either in his thought or in any corner of his heart, for my humble self, or for the motion that I have moved. Mr. Miles feels that when the Otto Niemeyer Award was given and the Order-in-Council of 1936 was promulgated the framers of the Award and Sir Otto in particular never contemplated a war situation.

That would, I humbly submit, not be giving proper dues to the intelligence and acumen of an eminent economist like Sir Otto Niemeyer who could not certainly think merely of peace conditions when he was settling a division or distribution of revenues for the whole country for all time to come. In section 138—the section which is now under discussion so much—there is a specific mention of a possibility of the Federal Government requiring some additional income for certain extraneous purposes and a provision has been made for raising additional income from income-tax revenue by the process of the levy of a surcharge. It has also been laid down in another section that over and above railway rates the Central Government could levy surcharges by an additional duty on movement of goods, and all these surcharges were to go entirely to the Federation. If the Federal Government say that they are in difficulties they are free to levy any of these surcharges to improve their finances. I do not know why the Government of India instead of taking recourse to such methods which have been provided under the law should mulct the province to improve their own finances. There have been two motions before the House and our members must have been at their wit's end to find out which motion would be left ultimately for the House to adopt. The Government spokesman has left the Parties to fight their own case.

Mr. SPEAKER: He accepts both.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: And at the same time he has left us to decide as between ourselves which motion should be left. We on the Congress side have always been in these matters liberal. I have absolutely no objection to withdraw my motion in favour of Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarker, particularly in the interest of unanimity of opinion of this House, and I do hope that the House with one voice will place

on record their protest against the modification and will accord their unanimous support to the motion of Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarker.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Bengal should take immediate steps to represent to the proper authorities that any modification of the Government of India (Distribution of Revenues) Order in Council, 1936, as per section 138 of the Government of India Act, 1935, should ensure allocation to the Province of Bengal of her due share in any tax on income, other than agricultural income, including Excess Profits Tax, particularly in view of the state of the finances of this Province, was then by leave of the House withdrawn.

The House then agreed to add the words "read with the Order-in-Council, 1936" after the word 1935 in the eighth line.

The motion of Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarker that this Assembly is of opinion that an humble address be presented to His Excellency the Governor through the Hon'ble the Speaker for communication to His Majesty-in-Council praying that His Majesty-in-Council be graciously pleased to revoke the recent amendment to the Government of India (Distribution of Revenues) Order, 1936, and to restore the *status quo ante* for the following considerations and reasons:—

(1) The Government of India Act, 1935, read with the Order-in-Council recognised the claim of the Provinces to half the share of the distributable pool of income-tax; but, as the Railways were not making their proper contribution to the Central Revenue, the Government of India (Distribution of Revenues) Order, 1936, authorised the Central Government to appropriate to themselves as much out of the provincial share of the income-tax as would together with the railway contribution and the central share of the income-tax make up Rs. 13 crores a year. It was clearly contemplated in this arrangement that any increase in railway contribution to the Central Revenue would release a corresponding amount from the provincial share of income-tax so long appropriated by the Centre to make up its deficiency. And it was, indeed, declared that it would give the province a salutary stake in the railway finances. According to this arrangement, the provinces have so long gone without the bulk of their share of income-tax and their loss was the gain of the Centre who thus were able to make up the deficiency in the normal contribution from the railways. As soon as railway earnings showed a tendency to increase and the provinces were looking forward to their share of the income-tax being released from appropriation by the Centre, the Government of India (Distribution of Revenues) Order, 1936, has been changed to authorise the Central Government to appropriate for themselves a fixed sum of as much as 4½ crores of rupees a year out of the provincial share independently of any increase in railway contributions.

(2) This province, it may be recalled, was most unfairly treated under the old Meston Settlement. This settlement has had a very deleterious effect on the finances of the provinces. Compared to other provinces, this province could do very little in the way of undertaking schemes of mass amelioration. On the other hand, fresh taxation and severe retrenchment had to be resorted to. This retrenchment was of an order which few of the other provinces even after the introduction of provincial autonomy has given effect to. But in spite of these drastic measures, the provincial budget could not be balanced without the aid of subventions from the Central Exchequer.

(3) The adoption of the Niemeyer Award had in some measure restored financial justice to this province, and it was looking forward to obtaining some relief under this new settlement. The unsettlement of this Award again after little over two years after its adoption will seriously affect its finances.

(4) This province has had two deficit budgets in succession and has not been able to take up for want of funds comprehensive schemes in connection with rural water-supply, public health and education, which it is urgently necessary to carry through with a view to improve the condition of the masses. The Government of India, on the other hand, are comparatively more comfortably placed. The sources of revenue available to the provinces are inelastic while the sources available to the Central Government are elastic and have actually expanded during the year.

(5) The permanency of the financial arrangements as between the provinces and the Centre is essential to foster the sense of responsibility and ensure the success of provincial autonomy. To disturb the arrangements on the first occasion which seemed to mark a turn in favour of the provinces, undermines the foundation of responsibility and is bound to nullify the effect of provincial autonomy.

was then put and agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is now for me as Speaker to take the necessary steps for the presentation of the address to the proper quarters.

Adjournment.

It being 11-10 p.m.—

The House was adjourned till 4-45 p.m. on Thursday, the 14th March, 1940, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 14th March, 1940, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E.) in the Chair, 9 Hon'ble Ministers and 216 members.

Outrage on the Marquis of Zetland, Secretary of State for India.

Mr. SPEAKER: Ladies and gentlemen, I am sure, you must have learnt with profound regret about the dastardly outrages that were perpetrated at Caxton Hall last night almost at the same time when we were making an appeal to the Secretary of State for India on behalf of Bengal.

Lord Zetland was the Governor of this province, and is, at present, the Secretary of State for India; but apart from this fact, his sympathy for the Indian aspirations and his depth of knowledge of India and Indian culture are facts which have endeared him to everybody and it is a matter of great relief to us that by the mercy of the Providence he has been saved from a calamity which would have shocked the whole Empire.

The death of Sir Michael O'Dwyer has profoundly shocked us. He has been the victim of a dastardly outrage. I am sure, the House will agree with me that it is a matter of great relief to us that Lord Lamington and Sir Louis Dane have also had providential escapes.

I am sure, ladies and gentlemen, it is the wish of you all that messages on behalf of this House expressing our condolence to the bereaved family, and congratulations to those who have escaped, be sent, and, I hope, ladies and gentlemen, you will rise in your seats as a mark of your assent to this.

(The members rose in their seats.)

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Protection of rights of fishermen.

*221. **Mr. MADHUSUDAN SARKAR:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware—

(*i*) that in this Province there is a section of people who are generally known as fishermen; and

(*ii*) that there exists a feeling amongst them in the absence of any provision in the law for the protection of their fishery right;

(*b*) If so, what steps do the Government propose to take in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A Special Officer was appointed to enquire into the different problems relating to the fisheries in the Province. His report is now being examined by Government.

Mr. MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long will Government take to examine the report?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: It is very difficult to forecast what time will be actually necessary. The report is a voluminous one and contains a lot of stuff which requires very careful and detailed examination.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the report was submitted?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: December, 1939.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that yesterday when a cut motion was discussed on this subject from this side of the House, the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan did not say anything regarding this?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter of special knowledge.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any provision made this year for the Fisheries Department?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: That is not my concern. I am afraid, the honourable member is mixing up the Industrial side and the Revenue side of Fishery.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the question of giving fishery right to the fishery tenants has been referred to this officer?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Yes, Sir.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the nature of the report is a confidential one or whether it may be available to the members of the public?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: It will certainly be available to the members of the public after the matter has been examined. In fact, the report is in the Press at present.

Construction of Burdwan-Arambagh Road near Damodar bridge.

***222. Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state the reason for the delay in constructing the road in continuation of Burdwan-Arambagh Road near Damodar bridge, Burdwan?

(*b*) Have the department prepared any estimate for the said road?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar): (*a*) As the portion of the Burdwan-Arambagh Road referred to will pass through the spill area of the Damodar river, prolonged investigations have to be made regarding the waterways to be provided.

(*b*) No estimate can be prepared until after the question of waterways has been settled.

Mr. BANKU BEHARI MANDAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long will the investigations take?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I understand that the investigation is over and the report is likely to be submitted within a couple of months.

Rate of price of butter and ghee for certain hospitals in Calcutta.

*223. **Mr. AHMED ALI MRIDHA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health (Medical) Department be pleased to state at what rates per pound—

(a) butter, and

(b) *ghee*

are supplied to the following hospitals—

(1) Presidency General Hospital;

(2) Calcutta Police Hospital;

(3) Medical College Hospital;

(4) Campbell Medical School Hospital; and

(5) Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital?

MINISTER in charge of the PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca): A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to starred question No. 223.

Name of institution.	Name of article.	Rate of contract.
		Rs. a. p.
(1) Presidency General Hospital	Butter ..	0 11 6 per lb.
	Ghee ..	Not used.
(2) Calcutta Police Hospital ..	Butter ..	1 8 0 per seer.
	Ghee ..	52 0 0 per maund.
(3) Medical College Hospital ..	Butter ..	0 8 6 per lb.
	Ghee ..	0 8 3 per lb.
(4) Campbell Hospital ..	Butter ..	0 9 0 per lb.
	Ghee ..	43 0 0 per maund.
(5) Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital.	Butter ..	0 9 0 per lb.
	Ghee ..	42 0 0 per maund.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the quality of butter and the quality of ghee supplied in these respective hospitals are the same?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I cannot say that—probably the same.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why specially high price is paid by the Calcutta Police Hospital, namely, Rs. 52 per maund of ghee, whereas the Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital gets it at Rs. 42 per maund?

Mr. SPEAKER: Do you know the present price of ghee? (Laughter.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: No, Sir. The rates are given there.

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I will make an enquiry.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why there is discrepancy between the Medical College Hospital and the Campbell Hospital, although they are close to each other?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I have already said that I will make an enquiry.

Transfer of Dhupguri police-station, Jalpaiguri, to Banarhat.

***224. Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Police) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that the Dhupguri police-station in the district of Jalpaiguri is being transferred to Banarhat;

(*ii*) that Banarhat is situated within the tea garden area;

(*iii*) that it is not easily accessible to the agriculturists residing within the jurisdiction of that police-station;

(*iv*) that the Duars Planters' Association made representation for the transfer;

(v) that Dhupguri is the biggest market not only of that police-station but of the whole of Duars; and

(vi) that it is situated at the junction of the four principal roads, which is easily accessible by the tenants of almost all the agricultural villages within the thana area?

(b) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing, year by year, for the last five years—

(i) the total number of crimes committed in the Dhupguri police-station; and

(ii) the number of those committed within the tea garden areas?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (a) (i) No.

(ii) to (vi) and (b) Do not arise.

Realisation of agricultural loans given to the people of Kasba police-station, Tippera.

*225. **Mr. MAQBUL HOSSAIN:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state, union by union, what *kists* were fixed for repayment of agricultural loans last given to the people of Kasba police-station, Tippera?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: A statement is laid on the table.

Statement.

Year in which given.	Name of union.	Kists fixed.
1938-39	(1) Dharkhar (2) Badair (3) Mulagram	Kartick 1347 and 1348 B. S.
1939-40	(1) Maniandha (2) Dharkhar	Kartick 1347 and 1348 B. S.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Settlement recovery camp at Jatrapur in Kurigram subdivision.

165. Kazi EMDADUL HAQUE: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware—

(*i*) that a settlement recovery camp has been opened at Jatrapur in police-station Kurigram of the Kurigram subdivision for the delivery of final *parchas* of *mauzas* Araji Bhogdanga, Madhabram, Bhogdanga, Sobandaha, Kadamtola, Bhelakopa and a few other places; and

(*ii*) that the records of demands exceeding Rs. 2 have not been sent to that recovery camp?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that obtaining *parchas* from the Rangpur Sadar involves heavy expenditure on the part of the tenants?

(*d*) If so, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of sending the records of all demands to the recovery camp at Jatrapur?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) (*i*) A settlement recovery camp was kept open at Jatrapur for a long time but was closed about the middle of January last.

(*ii*) No. Copies of all maps and *khatians* were sent to the camp for delivery to assessees on payment of settlement cost.

(*b*) to (*d*) Do not arise.

Kazi EMDADUL HAQUE: With reference to (*a*) (*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why no records of demands exceeding Rs. 2 were sent to the recovery camp at Jatrapur, although it was kept open?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Records for Rs. 10 were written off. No records were made which were less than Rs. 10 and as most of these people did not attend, the records were and as most of these people did not attend, the records were sent to the Sadar.

Tippera District Board Election.

106. Mr. MAQBUL HOSSAIN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the exact date of expiry of the Tippera District Board; and

(*ii*) when the next District Board election is likely to take place?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the constituencies for the proposed seats in the District Board have been delimited?

(*c*) If so, under whose order was it done?

(*d*) If it has not been delimited, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when and how the Government propose to do it?

(*e*) Do the Government contemplate the desirability of consulting the local members of Bengal Legislative Assembly and Council on the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca): (*a*) (*c*) 6th November, 1941.

(*b*) and (*d*) The District Board's proposal for abolition of the local boards has been sanctioned by Government who are now in correspondence with the Commissioner as to the date on which the local boards will be abolished. After such date has been fixed and notified, the constituencies will be delimited in accordance with rules framed by Government for the purpose. A fresh electoral roll will be prepared and published and the election will take place as soon as possible thereafter.

(*b*) and (*c*) Do not arise.

(*e*) It will be open to the members of the Legislature to offer such suggestions as they may consider desirable.

Development of cottage industries in Basirhat and Barasat subdivisions.

107. Khan Bahadur A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Industries Department be pleased to state whether any survey has been made in the subdivisions of Basirhat and Barasat in the district of the 24-Parganas as to the scope and possibilities of the development of cottage industries in the rural areas of the said subdivisions?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what other steps except—

(1) holding peripatetic exhibitions in some subdivisional towns,

(2) opening an Industrial Museum in the city of Calcutta, and

(3) holding of training classes in some places,

have been taken to improve the cottage industries for the benefit of the rural people of the Province?

(*c*) Is there any scheme in this respect, district by district, and subdivision by subdivision?

(*d*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any such scheme for Barasat and Basirhat subdivisions?

MINISTER in charge of the INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan): (*a*) A survey of all the districts of Bengal including the 24-Parganas was made in 1924 and a report published. It was revised and brought up to date in 1929. A reference is invited to pages 35 and 36 of the report as revised in 1929, a copy of which is placed on the Library table. The Bengal Industrial Survey Committee have undertaken a survey of the whole Province and Basirhat and Barasat subdivisions are not likely to be excluded from the purview of its survey.

(*b*) For an idea as to the steps taken for the improvement of cottage industries, the member is referred to Chapters II to X of the Annual Administration Report of the Department of Industries for the year 1938-39, a copy of which is placed on the Library table. I hope to be able to give a further account of the action taken during the year 1939-40 and that proposed to be taken during the next year in my budget speech when moving the demand for grant under "43—Industries".

(*c*) No. Schemes are not formulated according to the individual districts and subdivisions but with reference to the requirements of industries themselves.

(*d*) Does not arise.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*c*), is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there are some districts with their peculiar industries, for example, the conch-shell industry at Dacca, which depends on local conditions and no planning of such industries is possible unless the local conditions are taken into consideration?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid, Basirhat and Barasat are far away from Dacca.

Realisation of agricultural loans granted to cultivators in Kurigram subdivision.

108. **Kazi EMDADUL HAQUE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government have decided to realise the agricultural loan granted to the cultivators in the Kurigram subdivision last year?

(*b*) Has it been ascertained if the cultivators have reached their normal conditions?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of postponing the realisation of the agricultural loan till an inquiry is made?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*) Voluntary realisation of agricultural loan was taken up in some areas of the Kurigram subdivision in January, 1940.

(*b*) Yes. It was ascertained that the areas in which voluntary realisation of agricultural loan was undertaken had a normal *aman* crop and the people of these areas also profited by high price of jute.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Kazi EMDADUL HAQUE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the method of voluntary realisation of agricultural loan adopted by Government officers in Kurigram?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: The method is simply asking them to pay They have been requested to pay and if they pay it is accepted.

Kazi EMDADUL HAQUE: Was not any notice sent to them requesting them to pay?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Certainly it was. Notice does not mean coercion.

Construction of Dacca-Aricha Road.

109. **Maulvi AULAD HOSSAIN KHAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the construction of a portion of the Dacca-Aricha Road has been recommended by the Road Board?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) be in the affirmative, when is it likely to be taken up?

(c) Have Government come to any decision regarding the construction of a motorable road from Dacca to Aricha?

(d) If the answer to (c) is in the negative, when is the final decision in that respect likely to be arrived at?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The project was placed before the Board of Communications at their meeting held on the 18th May, 1939, and it was decided that it could not be recommended to the Government of India in the absence of a clear statement by Government that the road would not be prejudicial to public health. The project is now being re-examined, so that Government may decide whether a road regarding which such a statement can be made, can be constructed at a cost which is not prohibitive.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: It appears from the Hon'ble Minister's reply that Government have received the opinion of the Board of Communications about a year ago. Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell the House how long the Government will take to re-examine the project?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Sir, the delay is regrettable. I do hope that the Government will come to a decision very early.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: By whom is the project being examined?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: At present by the Public Health Department.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Board of Communications gave a conditional approval to this section of the road on the understanding that Government would have it examined by the Public Health and Irrigation Departments to find out if it would not adversely affect the health and irrigation problems of the area?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: No, Sir. The Irrigation Depatrment examined and submitted its report before the matter went up to the Board of Communications. As the Public Health Department raised some objections, the matter could not be made final.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it a fact that the Irrigation Department did not recommend the through communication on this road, but wanted to leave certain big rivers unbridged?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Yes, Sir, that is so. The idea was to minimise the cost by keeping the two big rivers unbridged for the present.

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an informal conference was held between the Public Health Department and the District Board of Dacca and the Irrigation Department and in that conference a resolution was adopted that the scheme should be taken up as early as possible?

Mr. SPEAKER: When was it?

Maulvi ABDUL LATIF BISWAS: In the last Budget Session.

Mr. SPEAKER: But this is a question subsequent to the 18th of May. Therefore how can that question arise?

Recording of jute lands in the Hooghly district.

110. Mr. DHIRENDRA NARAYAN MUKHERJEE: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture Department be pleased to state whether the people concerned in the various unions of Hooghly district were duly informed of the date when recorders from the Jute Registration Department were to visit the villages for recording lands on which jute was grown in 1939?

(*b*) If so, whether the information was given to the villagers by beat of drum?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(*i*) that there was a general complaint from the villagers that they had no previous intimation with regard to the recording of jute registration;

(*ii*) that many people could not get their jute lands registered;

(*iii*) that the Jute Registration Department have recently notified the villagers in various parts of the district of Hooghly, giving them only seven days' time in which to make corrections of the records or rectify omissions;

(*iv*) that people are hurrying from long distances to the jute registration centres of the Hooghly district for rectification of their records; and

(*v*) that they are not being supplied with the forms on payment of the required fee?

(*d*) If the answers to (*c*) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he considers the desirability of—

(*i*) extending the time of correcting the records; and

(*ii*) opening more registration centres to cope with the situation?

MINISTER in charge of the AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan): (*a*) and (*b*) Yes.

(*c*)(*i*) No.

(*ii*) No. In the beginning some cultivators were indifferent and did not attend the work regularly: some also were influenced by a rumour that a tax would be levied on cultivation of jute.

(*iii*) Yes. The period of seven days was prescribed in the Bengal Jute Regulation Ordinance of 1939 on the basis of which instructions were issued to the staff.

(*iv*) Yes. There was a last minute rush for filing objections after the promulgation of the Bengal Jute Regulation Ordinance, 1940.

(*v*) On account of the unusually large demand, the stock of objection forms ran out. Instructions were, however, issued to allow objections to be filed on plain paper.

(*d*) As the Bengal Jute Regulation Ordinance of 1940 has been withdrawn and there will be no regulation of the growing of jute in 1940, the question does not arise.

Flood due to Mymensingh-Bhairab Bazar Railway line.

111. Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works (Irrigation) Department aware—

(*i*) that since the construction of the Mymensingh-Bhairab Bazar Railway line abnormally high flood before time has become an annual phenomenon to that part of the district of Mymensingh which lies to the east of the line;

(*ii*) that the untimely annual flood damages *bowa* and *jali* paddy as well as jute crop of that area; and

(*iii*) that the cultivators are the worst sufferers?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the insufficient water passages through the railway line?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action he proposes to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: (*a*) and (*b*) The railway line runs across the spill area of the Meghna and like any embankment which is higher than the normal flood level inevitably interferes to some extent with the natural spill of the river. Government, however, are not in possession of any data from which an estimate can be made of the extent, periodicity, and duration of sudden rises in the height of flood water when obstructed by the embankment. Consequently the effect of such rises on the standing crops east of the line and the benefit, if any, derived by the country to the west of the line from the protection which the embankment affords cannot be estimated. The Railway Company has reported that according to their records there have been since 1917 only two years, namely, 1931 and 1938, in which the flood level was higher than the highest level before the construction of the line. The Company also reports that they have records of afflux gauges which shows that the water passages are sufficient. This, however, is not in accordance with the general impression, which is, that flooding lasts longer now than it did before the line was built.

(*c*) I have ordered an investigation of the whole subject and I propose to invite the Railway Company to co-operate in the collection and examination of data.

Maulvi MD. ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government has engaged any special officer or the investigation will be carried out by any committee?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Sir, as I have stated in my reply to (*c*) the investigation will be carried out by the department. It has not been decided whether we need any special officer for the purpose, although we are greatly handicapped for shortage of staff.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the investigation will be carried out throughout the whole of Bengal or only Mymensingh-Bhairab Bazar Railway line?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Sir, I may state for the information of the House that Government is considering that question for the province as a whole, but have not come to a decision.

Adjournment Motion.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I gave notice of an adjournment motion and I have got your consent. May I move it now?

Mr. SPEAKER: Just let me see whether it is in order.

This is your statement of facts.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Yes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Have you anything further to add as regards the facts?

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: As regards facts I have nothing to add.

Mr. SPEAKER: Sir Nazimuddin, have you got anything to say as regards the facts?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: As far as facts are concerned they are totally incorrect. There has been no assault and nobody was injured.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is the official version.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: I have seen the patients myself. Many of them were injured and I have attended to them.

Mr. SPEAKER: Have they been to the hospital?

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: They have not been to hospital, but that there was injury there is absolutely no doubt.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid I cannot certainly settle the dispute whether there is any injury or not. You have given a statement of facts, but apparently the official version is quite different. If you put a short-notice question I hope the Hon'ble Minister will have no objection to answer the same as regards the facts of the case.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I will have no objection.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Is it your opinion, Sir, that if there be an assault and if people are injured, but if they do not go to the hospital, there would be no case for an adjournment motion?

Mr. SPEAKER: Well, you have got another remedy. You can put a short-notice question. I am sorry I do not think your motion is in order. I may allow your motion when you get an authenticated version.

Srijut MANINDRA BHUSAN SINHA: Why should you put any reliance on the official version, Sir, and not on ours?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not putting any reliance on anybody. All I say is that they are not in the hospital. If they were assaulted, they could have gone to the court.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Sir, there is no difference between my statement of facts and that of the Hon'ble Minister as regards injury.

Mr. SPEAKER: As I said, the first remedy for you is to put a short-notice question and get a reply. If after that I am satisfied that there is a case for an adjournment motion, I will allow that.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: All right, Sir.

DEMAND FOR GRANT.

38—Medical.

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 51,27,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "38—Medical."

Sir, the aggregate provision for expenditure under this head of budget is Rs. 58,15,000, of which Rs. 51,27,000 is voted and the balance, viz., Rs. 6,88,000, is charged on provincial revenues. The actual expenditure during the preceding three years may be found useful and has been as follows:—

		Rs.
1937-38	...	52,87,000
1938-39	...	55,96,000
1939-40	...	55,56,000 (revised estimate).

I may mention, Sir, in passing that I took over charge of the department after the budget had taken shape under the guidance of my honourable colleague, Mr. Tamizuddin Khan. I have already taken the opportunity of placing before the House a statement for the information of the honourable members, outlining the forward policy I propose to adopt, within the compass of available finances, in the various branches of this department, and at the same time referring briefly to the improvements that the Ministry have been able to achieve. I do not, therefore, propose to go into many details. The principal increases and decreases have been explained on pages 106-107 of the Red Book, which, I am sure, every member of the House has studied carefully. I shall only make passing references to the most outstanding features of the budget, especially concerning new items of expenditure. as I proceed.

Referring, in the first instance, to extension of rural medical relief, the State grant has from this year been converted to a recurring grant of Rs. 1,50,000. In other words, the normal grant which stood at Rs. 1,10,000 has been raised to Rs. 1,50,000. I repeat the assurance that any additional amount that may be necessary, in order that rural dispensaries, which comply with the simple conditions attached to the grant may receive the subsidy, will be found and that no dispensary, recommended and qualified for the grant, will be refused help.

A scheme for capital grant-in-aid towards establishment of one dispensary between two union boards in the province is under the active consideration of Government, and I have every hope that although no provision has been made in the budget it will mature within the year through supplementary grant or by reappropriation or both.

The scheme of grants-in-aid to sadar hospitals at headquarters of districts, which serve the rural as well as urban areas, is being steadily worked out and liberal assistance has been rendered to the local authorities in respect of several sadar hospitals to assist them in making necessary improvements in the standard of medical relief. The progress has been slow, although the grants have been made liberally, for the reason that plans and schemes have to be carefully drawn up and checked in order to ensure that they relate to the comparatively more urgent needs of the hospital and that the maintenance of the improvements has to be guaranteed from local resources. All this naturally takes time to settle. The balance of the grant of Rs. 3,00,000 has been repeated in this year's budget.

The condition of the subdivisional hospitals at headquarters of subdivisions is also generally far from satisfactory; and I have initiated a survey of the needs and requirements of these hospitals, with a view.

to assisting the hospital authorities to undertake necessary improvements, in order that modern treatment in the various specialised branches of medicine and surgery may be available as far as possible, to the people, urban and mostly rural, inhabiting the areas.

Nursing is a very essential part of hospital treatment and nursing arrangements in our hospitals, with few exceptions, must be said to be wholly unsatisfactory. Steps have already been taken to introduce a scheme of improvement in nursing in the Campbell Hospital, the largest pauper hospital in the province, and the establishment of a large training centre for Indian nurses in that hospital has been undertaken. Necessary buildings and equipments for the nurses' quarters, which must be erected and furnished before a scheme can be introduced, have been taken in hand In the meanwhile, additional nurses have been provided in that hospital for a surgical ward which had been lying unused for lack of nurses. Nursing in the Medical College Hospitals has been found to be inadequate and complaints have been made to Government from time to time about the paucity of the nursing staff which renders it impossible to give proper attention to all patients. The arrangements are in charge of the Calcutta Hospital Nurses Institution, to which body adequate grants are made by Government. Additional grants are also made for the Sir John Anderson Casualty Ward and for the beds opened in the Eden Hospital Extension Block. The Medical College group of Hospitals, the largest and most modern hospitals in the province, are attached to the largest teaching institution in the province. The maintenance of these hospitals in an improved and well-equipped state is, I submit, Sir, in the interest of the province as a whole, of the rural as well as urban areas. People from all over the province come to this hospital especially for specialised and modern treatment for complicated and serious cases; and the population of the hospital is more rural than urban. It is also in the interest of medical education on proper lines that the hospitals should be adequately financed. Proper nursing is all the more necessary in a hospital of this type, serving the province as a whole. I am glad to inform the House that a provision has been made in spite of financial difficulties for a large recurring grant of Rs. 26,397 for employment of additional nurses and supervising staff in the Medical College group of Hospitals.

The interest of mothers and children, on whom national welfare depends so largely, has not been overlooked. The Lady Dufferin Victoria Hospital is a unique institution of its kind doing excellent service for women, especially women of the orthodox class who observe *purdah*. The hospital has recently been enlarged for improved and extended service which is, however, being retarded for lack of accommodation to house the additional nursing staff to be employed. To

help the authorities of the hospital and in recognition of the services rendered by this institution to the women of Bengal, provision has been made for a capital grant of Rs. 2,65,000 towards the construction of a new nurses' quarters combined with a nurses' training school. Other grants have been made to voluntary institutions carrying on maternity and child welfare services. A grant of Rs. 40,000 to the Ramkrishna Sishumangal Pratisthan may be mentioned. The Eden Extension Block has still a large number of beds lying unused and steps are being taken to build additional quarters for the nurses to be employed at this block and the remaining beds will be opened as soon as the nurses' quarters are complete and the scheme is finally approved by the Government.

Grants-in-aid have also been provided for the benefit of various hospitals and dispensaries belonging to local bodies and associations. It is proposed to come to the aid of S. K. Hospital, Mymensingh, with a special grant of Rs. 20,000, as the hospital is in temporary financial difficulties.

As the members are aware, an association for the prevention of blindness is rendering excellent service by running travelling eye dispensaries in the rural areas. These travelling eye dispensaries have rendered invaluable service in the cause of prevention of blindness and treatment of diseases of the eye. They have proved most popular. A grant of Rs. 15,000 was made during the current year to enable the association to run a few more travelling eye dispensaries. This grant has been increased to Rs. 22,000 for running five travelling eye dispensaries, one for each division.

The Tuberculosis Hospital at Jadavpur which is the only hospital for treatment of this fell disease in Bengal has been receiving grants-in-aid from Government from time to time. The hospital which is doing excellent work entirely depends on public help for its maintenance. A recurring grant of Rs. 10,000 has been provided for maintenance of beds to be earmarked for patients from rural areas. The hospital authorities had made a special prayer for a grant of Rs. 54,000 for improving the drainage of this hospital, a very essential need, but it has not been possible to provide this amount. An endeavour will, however, be made to provide this amount through a supplementary budget during the ensuing year. I may also inform the House that a scheme for enlargement of the present hospital has been forwarded to Government and is under consideration. I trust it will be possible to help this splendid institution further in its mission of service.

Sir, Government have decided to establish a climatic sanitarium within the province and we are in search of a suitable site. A climatic sanitarium is no doubt very useful, but its usefulness is limited. Times are moving fast and theories are changing. A theory which holds the field equally with others is that patients should be treated and cured

in a climate where they are going to remain all their lives. Hospitals, preferably at central places with adequate accommodation for modern treatment, especially surgical treatment, of tuberculosis patients, are, if I may say so, even more necessary. A network of tuberculosis clinics all over the province for early diagnosis, prevention and propaganda are equally essential if this menace of tuberculosis which is rapidly growing and has affected rural areas as well as town is to be stamped out. A comprehensive scheme for tackling the menace to be worked in co-operation with the Tuberculosis Association, local bodies and all others interested, is now under examination.

I may also refer to the proposed grant of Rs. 10,000 to the Indian Institute of Medical Research, in order to facilitate research on the problem of immunisation from malaria which this institute is now carrying on and which has a far-reaching bearing on prevention from that terrible scourge of malaria. The Tropical School of Medicine, which is the leading research institution in India, is continuing its work of research and is engaged in carrying out investigation into the etiology of tropical diseases. I propose to take steps so that research work may be carried on with advantage in other institutions, such as the Medical College Hospitals. I may also mention, Sir, that I have now under consideration a proposal for establishing an advance block of Radiology and Electro-therapy in order to introduce the most advanced methods of diagnosis and treatment by electricity in the Medical College Hospitals and of training medical men in this special line.

The House is aware that a General Council and Faculty in Ayurvedic Medicine has already been established and is functioning for some time. Progress has been made in constituting a General Council and Faculty in Homeopathic and Unani medicines on similar lines. As the number of *hakims* in this province is not large, and it will not be possible for the profession to collect sufficient funds to maintain the Council and Faculty as has been done in the case of Ayurvedic medicine, a grant-in-aid of Rs. 4,000 has been provided in the budget so that the Faculty may be established with the object of betterment of the practice and profession in Unani medicine. A small grant is also proposed to be made to the Ayurvedic Council.

Sir, I do not propose to take any further time of the House. I have referred briefly to only a few outstanding features of the budget which are in the nature, so to say, of an earnest indicative of the policy that Government are determined to follow for improvement and reorganisation of the system of medical relief. Sir, those problems cannot be solved and reforms effected without mature consideration from various aspects, inclusive, of course, of financial limits. I appeal

through the House to the public for advice, assistance and co-operation in carrying out the programme of reorganisation and reform that the Ministry has set befort it.

Mr. JATINDRA NATH BASU: Sir, I beg to move that the demand for Rs. 51,27,000 under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, the Hon'ble Minister for Public Health and Medical Departments has told us of the steps have been taken and that are intended to be taken for improving the facilities for medical treatment and for the improvement of the public health of this province. In his speech references to the indigenous systems of treatment came last, but, Sir, I trust that they do not occupy the last place in his mind. I would like to call his attention to the urgency of the development and extension of these systems. Our province is proverbially an unhealthy province and is also a poor province. The western system of medicine is comparatively a more expensive system than the indigenous systems and the facilities for treatment under the wastern system are not as widespread as in respect of the indigenous systems. There is a kaviraj in almost every village. It is therefore necessary that Government should see that the training of the kavirajes and the treatment that they administer to the patients are such that the health of the people may be properly looked after. Sir, the Government, as the Hon'ble Minister has told us, has already established an Ayurvedic Council. The object of the Council and the Faculty that have been established in that connection is to see that Ayurvedic institutions are properly conducted, that real medicine training is given to those that practise this system and that quackery is gradually made to disappear. Sir, so far as these systems are concerned, there is one factor which should not be overlooked and that is that the pharmacopia of those systems is such that the medicine is more cheaply and readily available to the patient than under the western system. Western medicines are so expensive and sometimes so difficult to obtain that it is not possible for patients to be properly treated. Taking all these facts into consideration, some of the other provinces have for several years been helping both the Ayurvedic and the Unani systems under provincial autonomy and also before provincial autonomy was inaugurated and have taken steps to develop and organise the indigenous systems. Madras has been spending large sums of money not only on schools for training pupils in the Indian systems of treatment but also on dispensaries and for maternity training under those systems. The other provinces that have been spending large sums of money are Bihar and the United Provinces. But so far as Bengal is concerned, it is only in this year's budget that we find that a sum of Rs. 1,000 has been provided for the Ayurvedic system and a sum of Rs. 4,000 for the

Unani system. As regards the Ayurvedic system I desire to draw the Hon'ble Minister's attention to the fact that it is the Ayurvedic system of medicine that is most widespread in Bengal. As I have told you, Sir, in almost every village there is a kaviraj and I found in connection with my work on the Ayurvedic Faculty that a large number of those kavirajes are Moslems. The Unani system is no doubt prevalent in some of the towns, but in the countryside there is not much of the Unani system and there are also no proper facilities for training in that system. So far as the essentials of these two systems are concerned, there is not much difference because both these systems originally came probably from the same source and we know from the works of early Muslim travellers in this country that there was great interchange between these two systems. These two systems developed side by side. I therefore request the Government to render more substantial help to these systems so that we may have one kaviraj for every village and people may not die without treatment. The dispensary of the doctor may in many cases be in the subdivisional headquarters and owing to the want of proper transport facilities in the village tracts of this country it often happens that a patient dies before the modern system of medicine can be made available to him for treatment. It is therefore necessary that the Government should pay much greater attention to these indigenous systems which the people have been used to for centuries, and which has benefited them all this time.

With these remarks, Sir, I would again urge upon the Government to make, if possible, a supplementary grant to these institutions. So far as the Ayurvedic system is concerned a large number of kavirajes,—their number is reported to be 7,000,—have been registered. Some colleges have also been recognised, and most stringent rules have been laid down for the inspection of these institutions. We also find that the Ayurvedic system has been proceeding on the advances made in the modern western systems of medicines by taking due note of such advances in its system of treatment.

Mr. GIASUDDIN AHMED: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 51,27,000 under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100.

মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়—আমার প্রস্তাবের উদ্দেশ্য হোচ্ছে সারা বাংলায় প্রত্যেক ইউনিয়নে একটি করিয়া চিকিৎসালয় বা ডাক্তারখানা স্থাপন করা। মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় তাঁর বক্তৃতায় বোলেছেন যে অন্যান্য বৎসর থেকে তিনি এই বিভাগে এবার অনেক টাকা বেশী খরচ কোর্ত্তে চেষ্টা কোরেছেন। কিন্তু ডাক্তারীবিভাগের খরচের যদি মোট সংখ্যা দেখা যায় তাহোলে দেখা যাবে যে মোট সংখ্যা দাঁড়ায় মাত্র আটান্ন লক্ষ পনের হাজার টাকা। এই টাকার অধিকাংশ ভাগ কর্ম্মচারীদের বেতনে এবং establishment খরচে চোলে যায়। যে টাকাটা বাকি থাকে সেটা খুব কম এবং তাহা দ্বারা যে আমার প্রস্তাব অনুযায়ী কার্য্য হোতে পারে না তা আমিও বুঝি। বর্ত্তমান প্রাদেশিক স্বায়ত্ত-শাসনের আমলেও যদি পূর্ব্বেকার গভর্ণমেণ্টের মত প্রতি বৎসরই সেই একই রকমের মামুলি Budget

করা হয় তাহোলে ভাল কাজের জন্য কোন দিনই টাকা পাওয়া যাবে না এ কথা স্বীকার কোর্ত্তে হবে। আমি এ কথা বোলতে চাই যদি গভর্ণমেন্টের ভাল কাজ করাবর ইচ্ছা থাকে তাহোলে যথেষ্ট উপায় হোতে পারে। এই বৎসরের বাজেট আলোচনা কোরলেও দেখা যায় যে সেই মামুলী ধরণের বাজেট। এবারও পুলিশবিভাগে ২ কোটি ৩০ লক্ষ ৭৬ হাজার টাকার বরাদ্দ হোয়েছে। যাদের শাসনের জন্য এই পুলিশের আড়ম্বর তারা যদি রোগে ভুগে বিনা চিকিৎসায় হাজারে হাজারে প্রতি বৎসর মারা যায় তাহোলে গভর্ণমেন্টের কি কৈফিয়ত আছে। এখন আমার বক্তব্য হোচ্ছে এই যে বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত মানুষ বোলতে যাদের বুঝায়, যারা বাংলার সম্পদ সৃষ্টি করে, তারা হোচ্ছে বাংলার কোটি কোটি কৃষক। এই কথাটা বিবেচনা কোরলে আমার প্রস্তাবের যুক্তি-যৌক্তিকতা সম্যক্ উপলব্ধি হবে বোলে বিশ্বাস করি। গ্রামের কৃষকেরা যখন অসুস্থ হোয়ে পড়ে, রোগে যখন ছট-ফট করে তখন তাদের শক্তি থাকে না যে সহর থেকে ডাক্তার ডেকে চিকিৎসার ব্যবস্থা করাবে। অন্ততঃ প্রত্যেক ইউনিয়নে যদি একটি কোরে dispensary বা দাতব্য-চিকিৎসালয় থাকতো তাহোলে মরার আগে একবার তারা চিকিৎসা করায়ে শান্তি দিতে পারতো। মন্ত্রী মহোদয় হয় তো বোলবেন যে এই কাজ টাকার অভাবে হবে না। কিন্তু আমি বোলতে চাই যে টাকার অভাব মেটাবার পথের সন্ধানও আমার জানা আছে। মন্ত্রী মহোদয় যদি আমার suggestion গ্রহণ করেন তাহোলে টাকার অভাব দূর হোতে পারে বোলে বিশ্বাস করি। প্রথমতঃ যদি গভর্ণমেন্টের মোটা মাহিনার কর্ম্মচারীদের বেতন কমান হয় এবং মন্ত্রী-মহাশয়েরা নিজেদেরও বেতন এবং ভাতা কিছু কমান, তাহোলে সেখানে কিছু টাকা পাওয়া যায়। তা-ছাড়া ইউনিয়নের অধিকাংশ আয় চৌকিদার ও দফাদারদের বেতনেই চোলে যায়। আমরা বার-বার বোলে এসেছি চৌকিদার এবং দফাদারদের বেতন গভর্ণমেন্টের তহবিল থেকেই দেওয়া উচিৎ। তাহোলে ইউনিয়নের যে টাকাটা বাঁচবে তার দ্বারা প্রতি ইউনিয়নে খুব ভাল ডাক্তারখানা হোতে পারে। থানায় সংবাদ দেওয়া ছাড়া এই সব চৌকিদার ও দফাদার দিয়ে গ্রামবাসীরা কোন উপকার পায় না। বরং গ্রামদেশের অনেকেই এ খবর জানেন যে এই সব চৌকিদারেরা অনেকেই চোরের সঙ্গে সলা-পরামর্শ কোরে চুরীর সহায়তা করে।

তার পর আমার বক্তব্য এই যে কৃষকদের জন্য ভাল কাজ করার কথা যখনই বলা হয় তখনই টাকা নেই এ কথাটা চিরদিন শুনে আসছি। বর্ত্তমান গভর্ণমেন্ট পুরাতন নীতির থেকে অনেক দূরে অগ্রসর হোয়ে নূতন নূতন অনেক কাজ কোর্ব্বেন বলছেন। অনেকগুলি নূতন department খুলেছেন। ফলে অনেক টাকা বৃথা কাজে নষ্ট হোচ্ছে। কর্ম্মচারীদের বেতনে যে টাকাটা খরচ হোচ্ছে সেই টাকা দিয়ে অনেক কাজ করা যায়। এ সম্বন্ধে আমি আর বিশেষ কিছু বোলতে চাই না। আমি সকলের কাছে নিবেদন কোর্চ্ছি গ্রামবাসীদের অবস্থার প্রতি লক্ষ্য করুন। তাদের পেটে ভাত নেই, পরনে কাপড় নেই, খাজনার দায়ে ভিটা-মাটি উচ্ছন্ন যাচ্ছে, ম্যালেরিয়া ও মহামারীতে গ্রামগুলি শ্মশানে পরিণত হোচ্ছে। বিগত বৎসরের একটি প্রশ্নের উত্তরে জানা যায় এক বৎসরে কেবল এক মৈমনসিং জেলায় একমাত্র ম্যালেরিয়ায় ৪০ হাজারের উপর লোক মারা গিয়েছে। ম্যালেরিয়া ছাড়া কলেরা, বসন্ত প্রভৃতি রোগেও বহু লোক মারা যায়। এই সব সত্ত্বেও যদি পল্লীবাসীদের বাঁচাবার চেষ্টা না কোরে শাসনের নামে শোষণ করা হয় তাহোলে আমি বোলে দিচ্ছি এই ধাপ্পা-বাজী ও ধোঁকা-বাজী বেশী দিন চোলবে না।

গত তিন বৎসরে গভর্ণমেন্ট পল্লীবাসী কৃষক প্রজাদের উপকারের জন্য কি কোরেছেন তার হিসাব খতীয়ান কোরলে দেখা যাবে বিশেষ কিছুই করা হয় নাই।

A member: বরিশালে অনেক উপকার কোরেছেন।

Mr. GIASUDDIN AHMED: মাননীয় প্রধান মন্ত্রী মহোদয় সেখান থেকে আসছেন বোলে বোধ হয় সেখানে বেশী উপকার হোয়েছে।

আজও পল্লীবাসীদের উপর যথেষ্ট অবিচার করা হোচ্ছে, বর্ত্তমান গভর্ণমেণ্টকে এ কথা আমরা বার বার বোলেছি। কাজেই আশা করি মন্ত্রী মহোদয় আমার এই প্রস্তাব গ্রহণ কোরবেন এবং প্রতি ইউনিয়নে একটি কোরে দাতব্য চিকিৎসালয় স্থাপনের ব্যবস্থা কোরবেন।

Dr. SHARAT CHANDRA MUKHERJI: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 51,27,000 under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100.

মাননীয় সভাপতি মহাশয়! বাংলাদেশের জনসংখ্যা পাঁচ কোটির কিছু বেশী। এবং এই প্রদেশে প্রায় এক লক্ষ গ্রাম আছে। পাঁচ কোটি লোকের ভিতর অধিকাংশই গ্রামবাসী। সহরে অল্প লোকই বাস করিয়া থাকে। যদিও সহরের ভিতরের ধনীর সংখ্যা বেশী কিন্তু গ্রামবাসী দরীদ্র জনসাধারণই ধনী এবং সকলের অন্ন জোগাইয়া থাকে কারণ আমাদের দেশের শতকরা ৯০ জন লোকই চাষী এবং মজুর।

কৃষি, বানিজ্য ও শিক্ষা যেমন জনসাধারণের জীবন ধারণের জন্য প্রয়োজন তেমনই সমানভাবে স্বাস্থ্য সম্বন্ধে বিশেষ ভাবে মনযোগ দেওয়াও অন্যতম প্রয়োজন। অনেক সময় বলা যাইতে পারে যে বিশেষ দৃষ্টি এ দিকে না দিলে কিছু দিন পরে জনসংখ্যাও হ্রাস পাইবে এবং দেশে আবর্জ্জনা, আতুর ও পঙ্গুর সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি পাইবে।

ইংলণ্ড, জর্ম্মানী, এমেরিকা প্রভৃতি দেশ আমাদের দেশ অপেক্ষা জনসাধারণ অধিক স্বাস্থ্যবান ও দীর্ঘায়ু। তাহার কারণ শুধু দেশের জলবায়ু বা ভগবানের দেওয়া অটুট স্বাস্থ্য নহে।

স্বাস্থ্যের প্রতি বিশেষ দৃষ্টি এবং স্বাস্থ্যবিভাগে গভর্ণমেণ্টের সবিশেষ ব্যবস্থাই ইহার কারণ। একজন এমেরিকাবাসী আমাদের দেশে আসিয়া যদি ঠিক আমাদেরই মত অভাব, অভিযোগ, উপেক্ষা ও দৈন্যের মধ্যে পালিত হয়, সেত আমাদেরই মত একজন হইয়া যাইবে। সে বিষয় সন্দেহ করিবার কোন কারণ নাই।

কলিকাতা বা অন্যান্য সহরে হাসপাতাল, চিকিৎসাগার ও চিকিৎসকের প্রাচুর্য্য থাকিলেও সুদূর পল্লীতে যে তাহার ইঙ্গিত মাত্রও নাই ইহা সত্য। সহর এবং পল্লীর মধ্যে পার্থক্য চিরদিন থাকিবেই, ইহাতে বলিবার কিছু নাই। গভর্ণমেণ্ট অধিক অর্থ দিয়া সহরের হাসপাতাল ও অন্য প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলিতে পূর্ণ ও সর্ব্বাঙ্গসুন্দর করিয়া তুলুন তাহাতেও আপত্তি নাই কেন না কতকগুলি আদর্শ প্রতিষ্ঠানের আবশ্যকতা আছেই। তবে পল্লীবাসীদের ক্ষুদ্র বা মূল্যবান জীবন রক্ষার জন্য যাহা অবশ্য করণীয় সে বিষয় আমি সরকার বাহাদুরের করুণদৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করি। জনসাধারণের রক্ষার জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্টের যে নৈতিক দায়িত্ব আছে, এ কথা অস্বীকার করিবার উপায় নাই। বর্ত্তমানে স্বাস্থ্যের দিক দিয়া গ্রাম ও পল্লীগ্রামের যে দুরবস্থা হইয়াছে তাহা অবর্ণনীয়। একে অন্নাভাব, তাহার উপর ম্যালেরিয়া, বসন্ত, কালাজ্বর, বেরী-বেরী, যক্ষ্মা এবং এবংবিধ নানা জাতীয় ব্যাধি আমাদের নিকট একে একে অতিথির মত আসিয়া কুটুম্বের মত থাকিয়া গিয়াছে যে তাহাদের বিদায় করা যেন অসম্ভব হইয়া পড়িতেছে। প্রধান প্রধান ব্যাধিগুলি কি প্রকার বৃদ্ধি পাইয়াছে, ১৯৩৭ সালের রিপোর্ট দৃষ্টে দেখা যায়—

	১৯৩৫	১৯৩৬	১৯৩৭
কালাজ্বর—	৭৫,৬০৭	৭৯,০৬০	৯৭,১১৫
ম্যালেরিয়া—	২,৮৭৭,৮২৫	২,৮০৯,৬৫১	৩,৭২০,৫৪২
যক্ষ্মা—	১৫,২২২	১৬,৯৭২	১৮,৫০৪

কুষ্ঠ এবং বসন্তও প্রভূত পরিমাণে বৃদ্ধি পাইয়াছে। পশ্চিমবঙ্গ, বাঁকুড়া জিলায় কুষ্ঠ-রোগীর সংখ্যা সর্ব্বাপেক্ষা বেশী, বীরভূমেও আছে, তদাপেক্ষা কম। ইহাদের জন্য পৃথক চিকিৎসালয় মাত্র কয়েকটি আছে। একটি বাঁকুড়া, একটি রাণীগঞ্জ যেখানে ইহারা যাইতে চায় না এবং যাইলেও সকলকে গ্রহণ করিবার স্থানও নাই। কাজে কাজেই প্রায় সর্ব্বত্র কুষ্ঠরোগীরা সহরে, গ্রামে, ভিক্ষার জন্য ঘুরিয়া বেড়ায় এবং যেখানে সেখানে শুইয়া বসিয়া সংক্রামক বিস্তার করিয়া থাকে। ঐ সম্বন্ধে কোন আইন না থাকায় তাহাদের যাতায়াত রোধ করা যায় না। এই সকল ব্যাধির প্রতিরোধ ও প্রতিকার কল্পে নাম মাত্র কিছু কিছু চেষ্টা হইলেও ক্রমশঃ বৃদ্ধির দিকে চলিয়াছে। সুতরাং ঐ সাধু প্রচেষ্টা সবিশেষ ভাবে অনুষ্ঠিত না হইলে কার্য্যকরী হওয়া অসম্ভব।

১৯৩৭ সালের রিপোর্টেই জানা যায় যে মফঃস্বলে ঐ এক বৎসরের মধ্যেই ৭৭৫,৯৮৪ সংখ্যক রোগী বাড়িয়াছে। (যাহারা হাসপাতালে চিকিৎসিত হইয়াছে) ইহা ব্যতিত যাহারা অন্য চিকিৎসা পাইয়াছে বা পায় নাই তাহার আনুপাতিক বৃদ্ধি কত তাহার কোন হিসাব নাই।

সাধারণ রোগীর বৃদ্ধির হিসাব—

১৯৩৫—১০,২১৫,৪৩০

১৯৩৬—১০,৩৩৩,৬১১

১৯৩৭—৩২,২৭৫,৬৬০

কলিকাতা এবং মফঃস্বলে চিকিৎসালয়ের সংখ্যা যাহা ১৯৩৭ রিপোর্টে পাওয়া যায় তাহা এই—

১৪৮৮ এলোপ্যাথিক

৭৪ হোমিওপ্যাথিক

১১ আয়ুর্ব্বেদীয়

৪ ইউনাইনী

ইহার মধ্যে কলিকাতার সংখ্যা এলোপ্যাথিক ·৪৭, হোমিও ৪ এবং আয়ুর্ব্বেদী ·৩—মোট ৫৪।

সরকারী এবং বে-সরকারী হাসপাতালে, এবং ইউনিয়ন বা লোকালবোর্ড ডিসপেনসারীতে, নিম্নলিখিত সংখ্যা চিকিৎসক ১৯৩৭ সালে নিযুক্ত ছিলেন—

I. M. S. Officers	.. 23	I. M. D. Officers	.. 8
Salaried Graduates	.. 519	Salaried Licentiates	.. 1622
Honorary Graduates	.. 346	Honorary Licentiates	.. 141

ইহা ব্যতিত qualified private practitioners এবং হাতুড়ে চিকিৎসক আছে। হাতুড়ে চিকিৎসকদের জন্য বহুস্থানে শিক্ষিত চিকিৎসকগণ নিজ মর্য্যাদা বজায় রাখিয়া চিকিৎসা করিতে পারেন না এবং জনসাধারণ অর্থ সংকটের জন্য তাহাদের উপযুক্ত পারিশ্রমিক যোগাইতে না পারিয়া [illegible] হাতে প্রাণ সমর্পন করিয়া থাকিতে বাধ্য হয়। বর্ত্তমানে দেখা যায় যে কোনও উপায়ে অর্থ উপার্জ্জন করিতে না পারিলে অনেকে পল্লীতে গিয়া চিকিৎসা-ব্যবসা অবলম্বন করিয়া থাকে। তাহারা মনে করে এই বিদ্যা অতি সহজ এবং কোনরূপ শিক্ষা না পাইয়াও অসহায় মানুষের জীবন লইয়া খেলা করে। গভর্ণমেণ্ট যতদিন না আইন করিয়া অশিক্ষিত হাতুড়িয়াদিগের অস্তিত্ব লোপ করিতে পারেন ততদিন যে কত পল্লীবাসীর প্রাণ বিনা চিকিৎসায় অকালে চলিয়া যাইবে তাহার স্থিরতা নাই।

দৃষ্টান্তস্বরূপ আমার জিলা বীরভূমে যে সকল dispensary আছে তাহার হিসাব জানাইতেছি—

No. of dispensary in all	42
No. of Union Board dispensary in all ..	276
জনসংখ্যা	10 lakhs.
Police-station	14

গত বৎসর কয়েকটি জায়গায় ম্যালেরিয়া রোগীর সংখ্যা দৈনিক ৩।৪ শত পর্য্যন্ত উঠিয়াছিল এবং একজন চিকিৎসক কাজ করিতে না পারায় সাময়িকভাবে একজন পৃথক চিকিৎসক নিযুক্ত করিতে বাধ্য হইতে হইয়াছিল। এই দশ লক্ষ লোকের জন্য মাত্র ৪২টি dispensary সম্পূর্ণ অপ্রচুর। ইহাতে জিলাবাসী সকলের উপকৃত হইতেই পারে না। অন্যান্য জিলার অবস্থা ইহা অপেক্ষা উন্নত ত নয়ই বরং কোন কোন জিলার অবস্থা অধিকতর মন্দ।

কেবল সংখ্যার কথাই বলা হইয়াছে, সংখ্যা ছাড়িয়া দিয়া অন্যান্য অনেক কথাও বলিবার আছে। গ্রামে, মফঃস্বলে dispensary building গুলি মোটে ভাল নয়। বহুস্থানে চালা ঘরেই চালাইতে হয়। ঔষধাদির stock যাহা থাকে রোগীর সংখ্যার অনুপাতে তাহা অনেক কম। ১৯৩৭ সালে হুগলী, বর্দ্ধমান, নদীয়া, রাজসাহী, ফরীদপুরে Quinine দান করা হইয়াছিল। অন্যান্য জিলায় হয় নাই। অন্যান্য জিলাও অর্থাভাবে উপযুক্ত পরিমাণে Quinine পায় নাই।

এইখানে একটি কথা বলা আবশ্যক, যুদ্ধ আরম্ভ হইবার পর হইতে Quinine এর অভাব এত বেশী হইয়াছে যে চেষ্টা করিয়াও গভর্ণমেন্ট Quinine পাওয়া যায় না এবং মূল্যও অতিরিক্ত হইয়াছে। এই ঔষধের অভাবের উপর আর এক উপসর্গ এই যে Quinine এর কার্য্যকরীশক্তি অনেক পরিমাণে কমিয়া গিয়াছে। গভর্ণমেন্ট গঠিত Biochemical standardization laboratory গত দুই বৎসর যাবত ঔষধ এবং ঔষধে ব্যবহৃত রসায়ন দ্রব্যের বিভিন্ন রকম Quinine জাত ঔষধই ১২৫ রকম নমুনা পরীক্ষা করিয়া উপরোক্ত মত প্রকাশ করিয়াছেন। যে সমুদয় নমুনা পরীক্ষা করা হইয়াছে তাহার মধ্যে শতকরা ২৬·৪ ভাগ ঔষধে, তাহার উপর লিখিত লেবেল মত তাহার শক্তি ছিল না। প্রায় ৭০টি নমুনায় Quinine এর পরিমাণ অনেক কম পড়িয়া গিয়াছে। এই শক্তিসম্পন্ন ব্যবহৃত Quinine এর নমুনার মধ্যে শতকরা ৫০এর অধিক নমুনায় Quinine এর ভাগ এত কম যে তাহাদের ঐ সমুদয় ঔষধ হইতে রোগ নিরাময় হওয়া একেবারে অসম্ভব।

কোন গ্রামে বা পল্লীতে এমন কি সদরে Biological laboratory নাই। ইহার সংখ্যা খুব কম। X'Ray institution সকল জিলাতেই নাই। পল্লীগ্রাম ত' দূরের কথা। যে যে জিলায় আছে তাহার পরীক্ষার fee এত বেশী যে সাধারণ দরিদ্র পল্লীবাসীর সাহায্য পাইবার কোন আশা নাই। সকল ব্যাধির ভিতর আমাদের দেশে প্রসব কালে এবং প্রসবের পর তজ্জনিত নানা ব্যাধিতে যে কত প্রসূতি চিকিৎসাভাবে প্রাণ বিসর্জ্জন করে তাহার সংখ্যা নাই।

মফঃস্বলে হাসপাতাল ও dispensary তে নিযুক্ত মোট ২৫ জন ধাত্রী (পাস করা) এবং ২৬৫৩ পাস করা ধাই আছে, এবং কিছু lady doctor ও আছে। আমার জিলায় মাত্র একজন lady doctor এবং ২।৩ জন ধাত্রী ভরসা। Lady doctor রা তাহাদের একাধিপত্যের সুযোগ লইয়া এমন অসম্ভব বেশী পারিশ্রমিক দাবী করে যে গরীবের পক্ষে তাহা দেওয়া সম্পূর্ণ অসম্ভব। পড়ুন করা ধাইগুলি কিছুই শিখে

নাই। আমার অভিজ্ঞতা আছে, তাহাদের মতে কার্য্য করিলে সব ভুল হইয়া যাইবে। পাশ করিলে তাহাকে অস্ত্র ও তুলাদিসহ একটি বাক্স উপহার দেওয়া হয়। পরদিন তাহারা সেটি বিক্রয় করিয়া ফেলে এবং মোটেই কিছু শিখে না। যাহাই হউক ধাত্রী ও শিক্ষিত দাইয়ের সংখ্যা এত কম যে পল্লীবাসীর অভাব পূরণ হয় না। এদিকেও বিশেষ দৃষ্টি রাখা প্রয়োজন। ইহা ব্যতিত শিশু মৃত্যু সংখ্যাও দিন দিন বাড়িয়া চলিয়াছে। ইহার কারণ প্রথম-কালীন চিকিৎসাভাব, যত্ন ও খাদ্যের অভাব। শিশু রক্ষা না হইলে মানুষ হইতে পারে না, সুতরাং এই বিষয়ও বিশেষভাবে দৃষ্টি রাখা এবং সুচিকিৎসার ব্যবস্থা করা একান্ত প্রয়োজন।

গ্রাম ও পল্লীবাসীর জন্য সুব্যবস্থা করিতে হইলে হাসপাতাল ও dispensaryর সংখ্যা অনেক বাড়ান আবশ্যক। প্রত্যেক ইউনিয়নে অথবা অন্ততঃ ২টি ইউনিয়নে একটি করিয়া dispensary হওয়া আবশ্যক। প্রত্যেক dispensaryগুলি প্রচুর ঔষধপত্র ও যন্ত্রাদিতে সজ্জিত হওয়া আবশ্যক। প্রত্যেক থানায় ২টি অন্ততঃ ১টি করিয়া lady doctor midwife থাকা উচিৎ এবং তাহাদের fee সম্বন্ধে একটি নিয়ম করা উচিত যাহাতে গরীব লোকও তাহাতে সাহায্য পাইতে পারে।

সংক্রামক ব্যাধির প্রতিরোধকল্পে যদিও ইহা জন-স্বাস্থ্য-বিভাগের বিষয়, বিশেষভাবে ছায়া-চিত্রযোগে জন-শিক্ষা এবং প্রতিশোধক ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ আবশ্যক।

আইন করিয়া অশিক্ষিত হাতুড়েদিগের চিকিৎসা বন্ধ করা একান্ত কর্ত্তব্য এবং যেখানে হাসপাতাল বা dispensary হওয়া অসম্ভব সে সকল স্থানে এক একটি *healtish* প্রতিষ্ঠা করিয়া Qualified and registered চিকিৎসকদিগকে stipendiary সাহায্য করিয়া প্রত্যেক কেন্দ্রে নিযুক্ত করা উচিত। এই ভাবে শিক্ষিত চিকিৎসকগণ সকলস্থানে প্রতিষ্ঠিত হইলে সাধারণে যেমন উপকৃত হইবে চিকিৎসকের ভিতর যে বেকার সমস্যা আসিয়াছে তাহারও প্রতিকার হইবে। ১৯৩৭ সালের ত্রৈবার্ষিক রিপোর্টে Major Mills তাহার মতামত যাহা প্রকাশ করিয়াছেন তাহা এই—

There has been a large influx of patients from the mufassal where modern methods of diagnosis and treatment were not available. District headquarters hospitals with the exception of a few were mostly old-fashioned and ill-equipped and not as efficient as they should have been. It is not a surprise that people should flock to Calcutta to avail themselves of the facilities which are wanting in the institutions nearer to their houses. The need for the improvement of the district hospitals was therefore greatly felt. One looks forward to the day when every union board or a group of two or three of them will have at least one dispensary to cater to their simple medical needs.

এই কথাগুলি বলিয়া আমি আমার motion টি সকলের অনুমোদনের জন্য স্থাপিত করিলাম। মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে অনুরোধ তিনি যেন এ বিষয় মনযোগ দিয়া একটি scheme প্রস্তুত করিয়া সত্বর উপস্থাপিত করেন এবং দরিদ্র জনসাধারণের সেবা করিয়া নিজেকে ধন্য মনে করেন।

Mr. WALIUR RAHMAN: Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by my friend Mr. Giasuddin Ahmed. It appears from the written speech of the Hon'ble Minister that as he was in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department and has only taken over charge of the Medical Department very lately he could not give sufficient attention

to this matter. Sir, on the last two days we had the opportunity to study the budget provisions with regard to the most important subject, viz., Agriculture and Industries, with the cherished hope that we would get the solution of the problem of the poorly styled subsistence of the unfortunate people of Bengal. But to our misfortune we met nothing but disappointment. Now we are coming forward with the legitimate demands of medical relief of the half-fed and ill-clad dumb millions of Bengal. The misfortune of the system of the drainage of their earnings under the imperialistic administration has made them easy victims to various fell diseases. Although we know fully well that medical treatment will be of no avail if they are not in a position to be well fed, yet we cannot but put forward this demand in order to make utmost effort to get them rid of the calamity. It is at least for the benefit of the fortunate section of the people enjoying the advantage of the exploitation from them, if not to the benefit of the poor creatures themselves, that arrangement for medical relief must be made to save them from the clutches of untimely death as well those of the fell diseases which eat into their vitals and render them worthless, useless and consequently unnecessary burden to the society itself. If timely steps are not taken to solve the problem, the advantage the certain fortunate few are enjoying and their luxury, ease and comfort will certainly cease to continue. An off-rooted tree cannot stand, and these poor creatures are nothing but the roots of all the wealth, enjoyment, luxury, etc., of the country.

Sir, you are aware that dispensaries in rural areas are very rare. Very few are in a position to take advantage of them. Though there are a few dispensaries, the location of them has been so badly selected that poor people cannot derive any benefit from them. Most of them having been established at the contribution of some well-to-do persons they are generally located in such a place where a group of well-to-do people reside and these influential and rich people monopolise them. The poor people cannot expect to be well treated there. In the mufassal, Sir, good physicians are also not available. So far as my experience goes, I know that even some thanas are going without treatment and without any dispensary. I think that more than five per cent. people in the rural areas cannot get any advantage of dispensary. The deplorable condition of the poor people of the mufassal is nothing short of shocking. It is painful to describe their fate, and so I refrain myself from doing so. I request the Hon'ble Minister to consult the schedule of dispensaries and the vital statistics due to various diseases and statistics of attacks of various diseases, although the latter one cannot be correct as many people suffer from various diseases in the interior unnoticed. I think these things are maintained in his department or the Health Department.

As regards the union board dispensaries, no doubt a few dispensaries have been established at the initiative of the Subdivisional and District Officers with a small grant of some contribution to meet the preliminary expenses, but without any arrangement for the recurring charges. I have got personal experience of my own district where in some union board dispensaries were started and thrust upon the district board, but the contribution received from the district board was not sufficient owing to its limited fund, and so they ultimately become so many dispensaries without medicine. As regards other dispensaries, I may say that they are nothing but instances of favouritism and nepotism. The Subdivisional Officer and the District Officer want to make themselves popular in the district, and these union board dispensaries are established in such a place where rich and influential people live. The unit of such a union board dispensary comprises three union boards and from this, Sir, you can well understand the position whether it is possible for three unions to be served by one dispensary. These dispensaries are nothing but a show and a camouflage of dispensaries because there is no arrangement for their maintenance. These dispensaries are merely a burden on the union boards. The burden cannot be borne by the union boards because one union board in whose jurisdiction it is located may take some interest, while the other two union boards are quite indifferent in this matter and their source of income is handicapped. Under the circumstances, Sir, it is useless to establish this sort of dispensaries.

As regards other matters, the Health Department and the Medical Department are closely inter-related, and the Health Department, I think, try to take some steps to remove the difficulty to some extent, and most probably a scheme was prepared two years ago. But may I ask where is that scheme now? I do not understand why this scheme has not been provided for in this year's budget. We find from the budget that a large sum of money provided for under the Public Health head has been transferred to other heads—I mean to the Publicity Department. This is nothing but disgraceful. This Government claims to be a popular Government and yet only to save their own position the money has been transferred to the Publicity Department. When we open the "Bengal Weekly" we find that there is no mention of distress, misery and suffering in Bengal as if all these have vanished from Bengal, and there is only happiness pervading throughout the province. (Cries of "Hear, hear," from the Coalition Benches.) This is what the Publicity Department does. There is no publicity as to how the condition of the agriculturists can be improved, but publicity is made only to maintain the position of the Ministers themselves. (Cries of "Hear, hear," from Congress Benches.) This is the position, Sir. The scheme prepared by the Public Health Department was placed before the Conference of Chairmen of District Boards, and

this was approved with some objections and modifications. Money was also provided in the budget for meeting the expenses in carrying out the scheme, but no steps have been taken up till now in this direction and the money provided has not been spent. The result is, Sir, that the scheme has not seen the light of the day. This year we understand that the money meant for this scheme has been diverted to other purposes. That is an instance of nepotism and favouritism. Under the circumstances——

(At this stage the member reached the time-limit but was allowed to speak for one minute more.)

Under the circumstances, Sir, rural areas will be deprived of any sort of benefit in this regard. Though Government say there is not sufficient money in the province, yet we find that luxurious provisions are made and a huge amount of money spent in so many institutions in Calcutta as well as in many other urban areas. We know, Sir, that there is some necessity for a provision for the treatment of complicated diseases, but certainly that provision can be reduced to some extent and some relief may be given to the agriculturists, at whose cost these institutions are maintained here. If Government cannot procure any money to solve this problem, if the Government is not in a position to prepare any scheme, then what is the necessity of going on in this way? We know, Sir, that there is no lack of money, because previously money was provided under some heads, which could not be utilized at all. If Government is not in a position to find money, then why is it not starting homeopathic dispensaries which can be done at a very low cost?

(At this stage the member having again reached his time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. P. BANERJI: Sir, I have no motion on this subject. Therefore I would like to discuss the matter only generally. I have listened to the speech of the Hon'ble Minister and also read the leaflet circulated by him this morning in which I notice that he has said from the beginning to the end that he has taken over charge of this department from the month of January only and therefore it has not been possible for him to look into the subject properly. That is the excuse that he has put in that pamphlet from first to last. Sir, as is usual with the Government from time immemorial he has found paucity of funds everywhere and therefore he could not do justice to his department, but at the same time he admits that there is a necessity of further improvement everywhere, but that that is impossible without the co-operation of the other Ministers. May I enquire of the Hon'ble Minister whether other Ministers as he has said are co-operating with

him or non-co-operating with him? For instance the Irrigation Department, the Communications and Works Department, the Education Department,—are these departments—I would like to enquire from the Hon'ble Minister, co-operating with him or non-co-operating with him? The fact remains that they are a very happy family co-operating with each other, working together for one set purpose; there is no denying that fact. Therefore Sir, the arguments embodied in this leaflet are not at all tenable. Dr. Mookerjee has elaborately discussed the defects of the department, being a medical man himself. He has said that everywhere there is mismanagement in the department. Sir, I cannot, for the short time at my disposal, go into details, but I would only repeat what Mr. J. N. Basu has said. Mr. Basu in his able speech this evening has stated that nawabs are generally generous. I would like to enquire why the Nawab Sahib has not been generous particularly in this case? I notice that a grant has been allotted, only a paltry sum of Rs. 1,000, to the Ayurvedic Faculty. I would enquire of the Nawab Bahadur whether it is not a mockery—this Rs. 1,000—for the Ayurvedic system of medicine? Whereas Rs. 4,000 has been given to the Unani system in which case the Faculty has not yet been established, but still in anticipation of obliging these hakims in this country, whose number is very few, according to Government statistics there are only 3 or 4 dispensaries—one is the Tibbia dispensary at Dacca and the other is at Delhi which is not in Bengal and therefore does not concern us, this grant has been provided for. So they need no support at all from this Government. I do not know whether the Nawab Bahadur has followed the maxim that "Charity begins at home", and wants to help the Dacca hakims with Rs. 4,000. But he has entirely forgotten the homeopathic practitioners altogether. When a Bill was introduced by me in 1937 the then Minister, Mr. Nausher Ali, assured us that the Homeopathic Faculty would be established immediately. Then the Bill was circulated for public opinion. Then Mr. Suhrawardy stepped into his shoes. He also gave a similar assurance saying that a Faculty would be established. Now, Sir, so far as I know, two meetings only were held and nothing has so far been done. It is up to the Hon'ble Minister to tell us how the case for a Homeopathic Faculty stands. But we may anticipate that nothing so far has been done because there is no provision whatsoever for a Homeopathic Faculty in the budget. If a Faculty were established, why no provision has been made? Every one knows that the population of this province is 5 crores and there are one lakh of kavirajes who cater to the needs of the suffering humanity. Besides that there are an equally large number of homeopathic practitioners. What have you done for them? You are spending over half a crore of rupees year after year and a major portion of that amount has been a criminal waste as has been pointed out by Mr. Waliur Rahman, the late Chairman of the District Board of

Jessore. Also it has been established by eminent physicians like Dr. Mookerjee who has proved to the hilt that the major portion of this amount is a mere waste. Now, Sir, if we consider these facts very calmly, we find that it is the homeopathic practitioners who cater to the need of the suffering humanity in the villages. If we take it that every village has a homeopathic practitioner, then we find that there are about a lakh of them in the whole province. Besides, there are many other medical men who are catering to the needs of the masses. As has been pointed out by Mr. J. N. Basu 7,000 kavirajes have already been registered and there are more than 10,000 who have not been so registered. Therefore, it is they who minister most to the medical needs of the people in the countryside. You have got only 14,000 registered medical graduates professing the western system of medicine, and only 500 that have not passed through a Faculty whom we call quacks. Besides these quacks there are several allopathic quacks in this country who, as Dr. Mookerjee says, should be stopped from practising. But Government has brought forward no legislation either to stop quackery or to recognise them. Sir, time after time a Bill was introduced before this House, but it was negatived, yet at the same time the Nawab Bahadur makes the statement that Government is very keen after the education of the students of these institutions and to give them facilities, but I find, Sir, that they are not giving any help. There are only a few dispensaries in the country and, considering the number of applicants, the majority of them are thrown out, and are not admitted. If you do not increase the number of such schools, the students find it difficult to learn medicine without some sort of indirect arrangement. It cannot therefore be said that proper medical education is being given in the country. Besides there is one other matter I should say, and that is about the dental college in Calcutta. Sir, it is well known that in the Calcutta Dental College many people, particularly poorer people, come from the villages. No provision has been made for helping this Dental College. We know how dental surgery has improved to-day, and Dr. Ahmed has been a pioneer in this line in this country. We also know that unless help is given to these institutions they cannot thrive: there is no better cause for which money can be spent. Now, Sir, considering all these circumstances, I must appeal to the Hon'ble Minister to rise above the occasion to do justice to all the departments and cater to the medical needs of the country not merely by supporting the foreign medicines, but by helping the indigenous systems of medicines also. Sir, I have no time; therefore I must once more tell the Hon'ble Minister to be generous and contribute adequately to all these departments and save the suffering humanity from disease and sickness.

(At this stage the House adjourned for 20 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Khan Bahadur SHAH ABDUR RAUF: Sir, the Medical and Public Health Department, I consider, is a very important department of Government from the point of view of the rural population of Bengal. But unfortunately, Sir, I find that this department has been very shabbily treated in the matter of grants. It is only the Public Health and Medical Department which can bring some relief to the door of the tax-payers of Bengal. So far as the grant to the rural union board dispensaries is concerned, I find that only a very small amount has been provided, namely, Rs. 2,000. The Hon'ble Minister in his speech has said that the provision for grants to the rural dispensaries has been raised to Rs. 1,50,000 and he has also given us the assurance that should further assistance be needed, it will not be found wanting. I find that this Rs. 1,50,000 is not meant as grant-in-aid to the union board dispensaries, but it is meant to implement the scheme for the establishment of rural health units. In the budget, Sir, only Rs. 2,000 has been provided for grants to the union board dispensaries. I would like to impress upon the Hon'ble Minister that these union board dispensaries are doing very useful work to the rural population of Bengal. It sometimes happens that two or three union boards combine together and establish a dispensary and that dispensary really does a great deal of good to the suffering population of rural Bengal. Therefore, it is highly necessary that Government should come forward to help these dispensaries. Sir, if at the modest calculation a sum of Rs. 250 is given as a non-recurring grant to the union board dispensaries, about 600 dispensaries could be helped with this Rs. 1,50,000 but, Sir, I submit that if instead of giving Rs. 250 only Rs 100 is given as an annual recurring grant to each dispensary Government will be able to help thereby 1,500 dispensaries in the whole of Bengal. Therefore I respectfully invite the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to give sufficient grant-in-aid to these rural dispensaries. I find that a sum of Rs. 1,50,000 has been provided for the establishment of Shahpur Dispensary in the district of Faridpur. I do not know why this particular place has been selected for the establishment of a dispensary at Government expense. If it is the intention of Government to help the establishment of union board dispensaries I think that a substantial amount should be provided in the budget in order that capital grants may be given to those persons who are trying to establish union board dispensaries. There is a scheme no doubt so far as we can ascertain from the speech of the Hon'ble Minister, but I do not find any money provided in the budget for giving effect to that scheme. I would also suggest that so far as the scheme of rural health units is concerned, provision should be made for the appointment of Assistant Health Officers, one for each subdivision, so that they may have a clear look

into the working of the Health Unit Establishments and Sanitary Inspectors. Rural sanitation is a very important item which should be looked into. It is food adulteration amongst other things that is responsible for the low level of the health of the people. I do not find anything in the budget to check the food adulteration. It is for this purpose that the Public Health Department should appoint Assistant Health Officers, one for each subdivision, so that they may scrutinise the work of the Sanitary Inspectors and food adulteration may to a certain extent be checked. As the question of Public Health is not under discussion, I shall conclude my remarks by saying that more money should be provided for the union board dispensaries and attempts should be made for the establishment of village dispensaries with Government aid.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMED: Mr. Speaker, it is a great relief from tongue-tied silence and refreshing to get an opportunity to speak which, thanks to the technique of parliamentary etiquette and party debate, have been denied to us on this side of the House behind treasury benches. It would not be overstating the position the ministerial party occupies in the budget debate, if I say that we have been reduced to automatons for producing Ayes and Noes. Budget presentation is a very important item in legislature. At any rate, so far as the budget is concerned, the opportunity to speak on it is a very valuable right which should be extended to members of both sides of the House for honest criticism and for constructive suggestions to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the department. I would not have intervened in this debate on account of the handicap and strain on the members of this side of the House but for ventilating two important grievances and crying needs. One is this: for the improvement of the Calcutta Medical College the Hon'ble Minister has set apart a large sum of money for nursing staff and other improvements of the Medical College; but I do not know whether it has been brought to his notice that there is no separate children's ward in the Medical College. The only apology for a children's ward is a ward of 8 medical and 8 surgical beds under professors of medicine and clinical medicine and common surgeons with the result that the growing peculiar diseases of children have got to be treated by those who have got an overcrowded programme everyday and who have got no special study.

Sir, the Calcutta Medical College is the premier medical institution of India and it should stand in a more favourable position than the Medical Colleges of other provinces. The attention now given to the treatment of children's diseases is very meagre and more attention should be given to it. In the Campbell Medical School there is a separate children's ward and in the Chittaranjan Seva Sadan is a

children's ward, but there is no such ward in the Medical College, Calcutta. In Bombay and Madras, they have got altogether separate children's hospitals, but Bengal has none with the result that children's diseases are being indifferently treated. The inconvenience that is experienced in putting children in the ordinary adults' ward cannot be exaggerated. It does not cost Government anything excepting the re-arrangement of spaces in the Medical College for setting up a separate ward with a separate outdoor dispensary under some special staff. There was a time in Bengal when there was dearth of specialists in children's diseases. But now there is no such dearth of specialists in Bengal, and so there is no reason why our Government should lag behind in providing a separate children's ward in the Calcutta Medical College. The children's treatment has assumed a growing position of importance in medical science and it is being accorded a special study like tropical diseases and those of ear, nose and throat. This is one item to which I wish to draw attention of the Hon'ble Minister.

Sir, the other item to which I wish to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister is that relating to the appropriation of the Medical grants to some parts of the province at the expense of others.

My friend, Khan Bahadur Shah Abdur Rauf, has already anticipated me by pointing out that provision has been made in some districts for village dispensaries, but there is no corresponding provision for other districts of the province. I do not like to comment more on this subject because there may be good reasons for it of which we have got no knowledge and which have not been disclosed in the lucid exposition of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Local Self-Government.

My submission to the House is that out of the total Medical budget of Rs. 58,15,000 against Rs. 55,56,000 of the revised budget, some grant has been provided for the medical establishment and also for medical relief. So far as hospitals and dispensaries are concerned, they have been allotted only an amount of Rs. 27,28,000 for the year 1940-41 out of which the Presidency hospitals have absorbed a considerable amount and mufassal hospitals and dispensaries have been allotted only Rs. 3,28,000 which also includes the cost of superintendence and establishment, with the result that only a very meagre amount will go even to improve sadar hospitals and raise the number of dispensaries.

I draw pointed attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the deplorable state in medical aspect to my constituency. I refer to the subdivision of Cox's Bazar in the Chittagong district. So far as the medical facilities are concerned, they are almost nil in a vast area, more than

one-third of the whole district. I would request the Hon'ble Minister kindly to take note of this fact, and it will be corroborated by the officials in the Chittagong Division. When the Hon'ble Chief Minister went to the locality, he himself admitted the necessity for medical facilities when replying to the public address presented to him. The area of the place is about 886 square miles and Government will be surprised to know that there are only 7 thana charitable dispensaries to look to the medical needs of a population of about 4 lakhs. Every year there are epidemics of cholera and kala-azar in that place and malaria is taking a heavy toll of human lives every year. I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister to make special allotment for providing medical facilities there. By this, I am not making any unreasonable request to the Hon'ble Minister. Out of a total revenue of 16 lakhs which Government collect from the district of Chittagong, the Government *khas mahal* there produces a revenue of about Rs. 8 lakhs and there is *khas mahal* dispensary there. This is really a very deplorable state of things for the Government which occupies dual capacity of landlord and State. The district board has established 7 thana dispensaries there recently—say, 6 or 7 years ago. These dispensaries have no adequate appliances or medicine. In conclusion, I hope that the Hon'ble Minister will kindly see that essential medical facilities are provided there.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Sir, I rise to-night not to enter into the merits and demerits of the Medical budget at all but to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister a few points which require careful consideration. The first thing to which I draw his attention is the absence of any money for extending treatment to persons who are bitten by rabid animals in the mufassal. Everybody in this House is perhaps aware of the fact that a good number of people are generally bitten by these rabid animals, and the best place for treatment is Calcutta. But it is very difficult for the mufassal people to come here. Of course I understand the privilege has been extended to some of the district hospitals, but in subdivisional hospitals rarely any arrangement has been made. The next point which I would like to bring to the attention of the Hon'ble Minister is the absence of any grant or any money for the encouragement of dentistry in Bengal. A few years back it was under the contemplation of Government to establish a Dental College in Calcutta, but unfortunately for want of funds that project has been dropped, and I do not know whether Government will be able in the near future to have sufficient money for the scheme. But there is one thing which the Hon'ble Minister should particularly take into his consideration and that is that a private college established in Calcutta is doing very useful work and it is efficiently run by my friend Dr. R. Ahmed. I understand that

repeated attempts have been made to get some help from the Government to equip the college with modern instruments and medicines, but for want of funds that gentleman is in great deal of difficulty. I do not know whether the Hon'ble Minister himself has got a tooth-ache or not. At least my friend Kazi Emdadul Haque will bear me out what difficult position a man falls in when he gets tooth-ache. Therefore I submit that the Hon'ble Minister perhaps will be able to give me some assurance to-night that he will arrange for helping this particular Dental College which is doing useful work in the province as well as allot some money, if possible, in a supplementary budget for the treatment of persons who are bitten by rabid animals in the mufassal.

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I should take the opportunity of speaking a few words on this motion. While fully recognising the necessity and propriety of giving increased grants to hospitals of the metropolis and the mufassal towns, I must say that the grant of a sum of Rs. 1,50,000 to the rural dispensaries is by no means adequate. The Hon'ble Minister-in-charge, of course, held out hopes in his speech that the department will not be found wanting should further assistance be needed in this direction. Sir, there is a persistent demand for the establishment of a dispensary in each union of Bengal, and I believe that the demand is wholly justifiable in view of the fact that cases of malaria, kala-azar and other diseases are on the increase in every village and the existing dispensaries whose number is extremely meagre and limited cannot at all cope with the situation. Sir, I am told that there are now 529 village dispensaries in Bengal. In a province where the number of unions is 5,000 with about one lakh of villages and such a large population, 529 village dispensaries are too insufficient to be able to give adequate medical relief to the people concerned. If Government annually spend 1,50,000 rupees for 529 such dispensaries, the total cost for maintaing one dispensary for each union at the rate of Rs. 290 on an average will be in the neighbourhood of Rs. 15 lakhs a year. Government now spends Rs. 11 lakhs annually for the sanitary staff. Everyone will admit that this exenditure on the sanitary staff is practically a waste, inasmuch as the Sanitary Inspectors and their assistants are not properly qualified to give necessary aid to the suffering people when epidemics break out in particular localities. Therefore, the entire amount spent for the maintenance of the sanitary staff may be at once released and utilised towards the establishment and maintenance of one dispensary in each union in this province. I realise that this proposal, if given effect to, will cause great hardship to the employees of the Sanitary Department, but I do feel that it will be fully justified for the greater good of the country.

Government now spends about Rs. 1,50,000 for the rural dispensaries per year. Add this amount to Rs. 11 lakhs spent on the sanitary staff and you will get Rs. 12,50,000. You can easily find another 2 to 3 lakhs by making retrenchment in the department and you can get Rs. 15 lakhs on the whole and with this amount the problem may be easily solved. The present system of giving indiscriminate contribution to the dispensaries cannot be justified, because the authorities of the district boards who are clever and prompt are getting more money on this head than the district boards where the authorities are rather callous and indifferent. For example, in Mymensingh district alone 50 village dispensaries have been granted subsidies and Pabna has got subsidies for as many as 32 dispensaries this year, whereas Noakhali has got subsidies for 11 such dispensaries and it is my painful duty to point out here that my constituency consisting of 20 unions has got only two such dispensaries. If subsidy is given in this way without proper examination of the local needs of each district, there is bound to be a great injustice, and I submit that the people of other districts should not suffer for the indifference and negligence of the local authorities. Government must come forward to give equal medical facilities as far as possible to all parts of Bengal by establishing at least one dispensary in each union and when this is done,—and I believe it can be done without much difficulty,—the problem of providing medical help to rural Bengal will be solved to a great extent.

With these few words, Sir, I appeal to the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge to bestow his earnest attention to remove this long-standing grievance of rural Bengal by taking immediate steps to establish one dispensary in each union throughout the province.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the eternal neglect of the mufassal of Bengal which characterises the budgetary provisions of the Government in pre-autonomy days is still reflected very markedly in the much vaunted budget of the democratic popular Government to-day. Sir, if according to the Newtonian law matter gravitates towards earth, according to the lamentable law of the present Cabinet, the budgetary provisions gravitate towards Dacca and Barisal. Sir, this is a matter which is not my inference merely. It is a matter which has been very clear by the introductory speech while the budget was presented by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister and my inference has been more than borne out by the various speeches of the various honourable members of the Coalition Party who have just preceded me. Sir, it is my painful duty to make an observation that the ministers to-day are the ministers of Bengal, but they do not know Bengal as it is. They have no comprehensive idea of the vast territory of the province nor any idea of the burning needs which are pricking the inhabitants of this mighty province day in and day out.

So far as the medical side is concerned, the previous Government were satisfied with making pompous provisions and investing large sums of money in centralised institutions. But although the wheel has turned and although we seem to be living in a time when decentralisation is the order of the day, still, Sir, facing the facts, we find that investments are being made in centralised institutions and there are institutions which have been kept up in a very miserable condition. The needs of rural Bengal are being neglected, neglected to the heart's content of the Cabinet and to the discontent of the rest of Bengal. The Ministry has no comprehensive plan so far as the medical side is concerned. This will be borne out by one single instance. At page 107 of the Red Book of this year we find that out of Rs. 2,60,000 which was provided for a particular expenditure only Rs. 1,17,000 was spent and the rest could not be spent because the Ministry had no plan, absolutely no avenue for spending this money.

Sir, you will find, and I hope, you will agree with me,—and that has been made out by the honourable members of the Coalition Party —that hospitals in the district towns are starving. Through local efforts hospitals have come to stay and small subsidies like doles have been given from time to time, but these have not strengthened these institutions, although they are the only institutions upon which the mufassal people can rely. I will give you, Sir, one example. In my own district, the district of Murshidabad, the sadar hospital at Berhampore is one of the biggest in the mufassal, which accommodates in normal times as many as 150 indoor patients and in the outdoor department about 500 patients are looked after every day, and in abnormal times the figure swells up to several thousands. I may tell you, Sir, that the hospital at Murshidabad not only caters to the patients of that district but also caters to the patients of Birbhum, Nadia, Rajshahi and Malda districts, and through the munificence of one single individual, the Maharaja of Lalgola, who is fortunately alive and about 90 years of age—through the munificence of this one single individual—this hospital has grown to its present dimension, and it is through his munificence and charity that the hospital has become one of the best and the biggest in the mufassal. Here there is an X-ray installation, there is a leper clinic and there are also infectious wards, and recently a baby and maternity ward has also been statred. This has been possible only through the charity and contribution of this grand old man, and I think, it will be borne out by the Hon'ble Maharaja of Cossimbazar who is also a member of the Cabinet. But the hospital has gradually come to such a dimension that it is no longer possible for private charities to keep it alive. Private collections there are, subscriptions are collected from month to month and this grand old Maharaja of Lalgola is still helping it, but it has come to such a critical condition to-day on account of the withdrawal of the annual 2,000

rupees subsidies from the Red Cross that it may collapse at any time. Last year, the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan, who was in charge of this department at that time, had the privilege of visting this hospital and he was preceded by no less a person than His Excellency the Governor of Bengal; and these highly-placed persons had made remarks which were extremely flattering and encouraging and they had expressed that they would recommend some help from the Government. But I am sorry to say that in spite of the attention of Government having been repeatedly drawn to this matter, Government is absolutely slow and niggardly in coming to the assistance of this institution. May I ask, Sir, why do such things happen? How is it that Government which calls itself a popular Government, the Government which exists through the suffrage of the rural people, go on merrily enjoying their office only by making certain paper propaganda, while these people of rural Bengal are being starved having had no treatment in illness? This is a reasonable question, and I hope the Hon'ble Minister will give a satisfactory reply.

Sir, I very much appreciate the spirit in which my friend Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmed has spoken, and I am glad that he has not proved to be a blind follower of Government. May I ask him, Sir, and the other members of the Coalition Party why is it possible for a Minister to go on merrily spending money on certain favourite institutions while mufassal Bengal is being starved? So far as my district is concerned, there are four members in this House from that district, of which one belongs to the Opposition and the other three to the Coalition Party. Every district is represented in the Coalition Party, and it is no use merely charging the Government with negligence. There is the Coalition Party. It is not the Ministers' Government,—it is the Government of the members of the Coalition Party,—and it is for them to go on stock-taking and answer their own conscience and answer the oppositionists.

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: সভাপতি মহাশয়, আমি এই গভর্ণমেণ্টের মেডিকাল পলিসি সম্পর্কে দু-একটা কথা বলবো। আজ আমরা দেখতে পাচ্ছি যে দেশে রোগের প্রকোপ দিন দিন বেড়েই চলেছে। পাব্লিক হেলথ-বিভাগের চেষ্টা সত্ত্বেও রোগের কবল থেকে লোকদের রক্ষা করা যাচ্ছে না। এবং পাব্লিক হেলথের চেষ্টাকে দমিয়ে দেবার জন্যই যেন রোগ দিন দিন লোকদের আরো বেশী কোরে গ্রাস কোরছে। এই অবস্থা থেকে লোকদের রক্ষা কোরতে হলে এখন একমাত্র কর্ত্তব্য সর্বত্র ডিসপেন্সারি স্থাপন করা। প্রত্যেক ইউনিয়নে একটি কোরে ডিসপেন্সারি স্থাপন অবিলম্বে না করা গেলেও প্রতি দুই ইউনিয়নে একটা কোরে ডিসপেন্সারি স্থাপন সত্বর করা কর্ত্তব্য। দেশে যে ডিসপেন্সারিগুলি আছে তারাও ঔষধপত্র অভাবে লোকের উপকার কোরতে পারছে না। সে সব ডিস্পেন্সারির প্রত্যেকটীকে বেশী কোরে টাকা সাহায্য দেওয়া দরকার, নৈলে তাদের দ্বারা কোন কাজই হবে না, কেবল মাত্র show রক্ষা করা হবে। এই সব show রাখার কোন অর্থ নাই, যদি তাদের দ্বারা প্রকৃত কোন কাজই না হয়।

এখন কথা হোচ্ছে আমাদের দেশের এই সব ডিস্পেন্সারির ডিমাণ্ড যোগাতে হোলে ১০।১২ লক্ষ টাকার দরকার। গভর্ণমেণ্টেরও টাকা যোগাবার দুটী মাত্র উপায় আছে। একটা হোচ্ছে

ট্যাক্সেসন, আর একটা হোচ্ছে retrenchment ট্যাক্সেসন কোরতে হোলে কোরতে হবে হয় তো গরীবের উপর, নয় তো ধনীর উপর। গরীবের উপর ট্যাক্সেসন আমরা কিছুতেই কোরতে দেবো না। ক্যাবিনেটের বর্ত্তমান সভ্যদের অধিকাংশই ধনীশ্রেণীর, সুতরাং ধনীদের উপর ট্যাক্সেসন ক্যাবিনেটের মেম্বাররা কোরবেন না। আর আছে retrenchment, কিন্তু সেই রিট্রেঞ্চমেন্ট সম্বন্ধেও এখানে অবস্থা সুবিধাজনক নয়। আমাদের দেশে যে বিউরোক্রাটিক গভর্ণমেন্ট এতকাল ধোরে শাসন চালিয়ে আসছিলেন তারা নিজেদের সুবিধার দিকে লক্ষ্য রেখে বেতন খুব বাড়িয়ে দিয়েছিলেন। এখন সেটা কমিয়ে দেশের অবস্থার সঙ্গে খাপ খাওয়াবার সম্ভাবনা দেখি না। কেন না যারা ক্যাবিনেটে আছেন তারা সব সেই বিউরোক্রাটিরই শিষ্য ও ভক্ত এবং ইহারই আওতায় তাহারা বর্দ্ধিত। তা-ছাড়া বেতন কমালে কর্ম্মচারীদের মধ্যে অসন্তোষ বাড়বে এবং কাজ-কর্ম্ম ভাল চলবে না এ-ভয়ে মন্ত্রীসভা বেতন কমাতে মত দিবেন না বলেই আমার ধারনা। যদি opposition আন্তরিকভাবে আন্দোলন করে কর্ম্মচারীদের বেতন ও অন্যান্য অপব্যয় কমান সম্পর্কে দেশের লোককে উদ্বুদ্ধ কোরতে পারতো এবং সকলকে retrenchment এর কার্য্যকারীতা বোঝাতে পারতো তাহলে কাজ হতো। কিন্তু retrenchment সম্বন্ধে এখানে কংগ্রেস পার্টি যে ক্ষীণ-স্বরে চিৎকার কোরছেন তাদের সে চিৎকারের দ্বারা দেশের লোকদের মনে কোন আশা-ভরসা আসছে না। কারণ যারা এখানে retrenchmentএর জন্য চিৎকার কোরছেন, তারাই কলিকাতা কর্পোরেশনে দিনের পর দিন কারণে-অকারণে কর্ম্মচারীদের বেতন ও staff বাড়িয়ে চোলেছেন। সেই জন্য তাদের কথার মূল্য কেহ দিবে না, তারা sincere নন। তাহাদের retrenchmnet এর জন্য দাবী করার মুখ নাই। (Hear, hear) সুতরাং যখন retrenchment সহজে হবে না, taxation এরও সেইরূপ অবস্থা; তখন আমরা গভর্ণমেন্টকে বোলছি সাহসের সঙ্গে অগ্রসর হোতে। দেশের লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক প্রতি বছর রোগে মোরে যাবে, আর আমরা এখানে বোসে মজা দেখবো, এবং সুখে-স্বচ্ছন্দে দিন কাটাবার ব্যবস্থা কোরবো, সে হোতে পারে না। আমাদের দেশের লোকগুলিই যদি মোরে যায় তাহলে এ-সমস্ত show রাখবার কোন দরকারই থাকবে না। এই জন্যই বোলি, গভর্ণমেন্টকে সাহসের সঙ্গে অগ্রসর হোতে হবে এবং ঋণ কোরে হউক কি অন্য যে কোন উপায়ে হউক লোকদের রোগের কবল থেকে রক্ষার কাজটায় হাত দিতে হবে। তার পরে যদি দরকার হয় ট্যাক্সেসনও কোরতে হবে, যদি দরকার হয় সমস্ত কর্ম্মচারীর মাইনে কমাতে হবে, এবং সর্ব্ব প্রথম লেজিস্লেটিভ য়্যাসেম্বিলতে আমাদের এবং কাউন্সিলের মেম্বরদের বেতন ও এলাউন্স কমাতে হবে। লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক মোরে যাবে আর আমরা এখানে বোসে আরাম কোরবো, এ হোতে পারে না। লোকের অকাল-মৃত্যু অবশ্যম্ভাবী নয়, যদি তাদের রোগের সময় সুচিকিৎসা করানো যায়। উপযুক্ত ঔষধ দেওয়া যায় তারা রোগমুক্ত হতে পারে। তাদের মুখে হাসি ফুটতে পারে, তাদের বাঁচাবার জন্য যে কোন step নেওয়া হবে তা যদি আমরা সমর্থন না কোরতে পারি তাহলে আমাদের এখানে থাকার কোন দরকার নাই। সেই জন্য আমি আশা করি গভর্ণমেন্ট সাহসের সঙ্গে অগ্রসর হবেন। তাঁরা যদি কোন পরিকল্পনা এ-সম্বন্ধে করেন এবং তাহা কার্য্যকরী কোরতে তারা কোন রকম আইন পাশ করাতে চান আমরা তাহাতে সাহায্য কোরতে প্রস্তুত আছি।

Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Sir, hostile criticisms have been levelled against the Government for their failure to do what they should have done. The Hon'ble the Chief Minister the other day, while replying to the criticisms on the Education budget demands, very politely said—"something attempted, something achieved, and something

remains to be achieved." It would be, indeed, uncharitable, rather far from truth to say that the present Ministry has not attempted to do real substantial good to the vast population of the country. True it is that the much-talked-of millennium could not be brought to the country overnight as the friends opposite would want one to do. Sir, time has taught the people to distinguish between work and professions, business and tall talks. I need hardly dilate upon those points. Although a few dozen of people in this House sitting opposite do not admit that the vast rural Bengal unequivocally recognises that the Huq Ministry has proved a boon to the country at large, the ameliorative measures that have been brought into the Statute Book, have really changed the very outlook of the country and can challenge any civilized nation in the world, regard being had to the shortness of time and the hostile atmosphere in the House.

I would now proceed to make some observations on the Medical Demands. Sir, in a budget of 13 crores of rupees only 51 lakhs and odd have been allotted to head "38—Medical." The problem is so vast and vital but the approach is so meagre and faltering. Then again there is the vice of the tendency to centralization. Of the total dispensation under this head only a very infinitesimal portion will flow to the rural areas of Bengal, while practically the whole of it is dispensated to be spent in cities and towns, honouring the maxim "carrying coal to Newcastle."

Sir, every year thousands of people are ruthlessly being carried away by the pest of malaria, kala-azar and other fell diseases. Rural Bengal is paying a heavy toll of deaths of her sons and daughters annually. Some districts of Bengal are going to be depopulated. Yet the problem being so vast and of such great magnitude, I fail to see why Government should not tackle the situation more boldly and more comprehensively.

Sir, time has come when the whole situation should be overhauled and the whole outlook and approach should be changed. If you want real prosperity of the country, you must first give health and vigour by medical help to the real producers of the wealth of the nation, who have been described by Sir Mirza Ismail as "patron saints of the village" and by you, Sir, as "men behind the plough." What a shocking sight it is to see people dying without medicines and without food? I do not like to dilate upon those points any further. My specific and definite suggestion is that Government should establish one charitable dispensary within every two unions. I am told that there is a scheme like this before the Government, but I fail to see why Government is hesitating to put the scheme into operation. The question of finance may be raised. But finances have to be found out. The present maladjustment between urban and rural areas should be properly adjusted. Finances should be made available. The diseased, half-fed, and the ill-clad tillers of the soil expect much at the hands of the present

Hon'ble Minister, Nawab Bahadur of Dacca. The country has full confidence in him, and I hope he will kindly so husband his resources that the much-neglected countryside may no longer be neglected and may usher in a new era of health and prosperity to the country at large.

Mr. SYED AHMAD KHAN: সভাপতি সাহেব—আমি আমার বন্ধু মৌলভী শিয়াসুদ্দিন সাহেবের প্রস্তাব সমর্থন কোরছি। তার প্রস্তাবে আছে প্রত্যেক ইউনিয়নে একটি কোরে ডিস্পেন্সারি কোরে দেওয়া। বাংলার শতকরা ৯৫ জন কৃষক। দেনার দায়ে তাদের সমস্ত সম্পত্তি বিক্রি হোয়ে গেছে। যা কিছু অবশিষ্ট আছে তাতেও প্লাবনে, অতিবৃষ্টিতে এবং অনাবৃষ্টির দরুণ ভাল ফসল উৎপন্ন হয় না। এমন অবস্থায় তারা শেষ হোতে চোলেছে। বাংলার কৃষকের ফসল হইতেই যে টাকা উৎপাদিত হয় গভর্ণমেন্টের রাজস্ব তাহা হইতেই আসে। গভর্ণমেন্ট পুলিশ ফৌজের জন্য কোটি কোটি টাকা ব্যয়-বরাদ্দ কোর্ত্তে পারেন। সমস্ত নবাব, রাজা, মহারাজা, ধনিক এবং বণিকদের সমস্ত বিভাগের জন্য অজস্র টাকা ব্যয়-বরাদ্দ কোরে থাকেন দুঃখী কৃষক যারা মাথার ঘাম পায়ে ফেলে রৌদ্রে পুড়ে, বৃষ্টিতে ভিজে টাকা উৎপাদন করে তাদের জন্য যখন ব্যয়-বরাদ্দের কথা বলা হয় তখন গভর্ণমেন্ট বলেন টাকা নেই। কৃষি-কার্য্যের উন্নতির জন্য যখন বলা হয় Minister রা বলেন টাকা নেই। যখন এদেশে কৃষকদের জন্য Primary শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থার কথা বলা হয় Minister রা বলেন যে tax ধার্য্য না কোরে Primary শিক্ষার প্রচলন করা যায় না। তার পর এই সব সর্ব্বহারা কৃষকদের স্বাস্থ্য নষ্ট হোতে চোলেছে তাদের ঔষধ দিয়ে এবং চিকিৎসার বন্দোবস্ত করে বাঁচান দরকার এ-কথা গভর্ণমেন্টকে বোললে গভর্ণমেন্ট উত্তর দেবেন টাকার অভাবে কিছু করা যায় না। আমি বলি যারা ধন-সম্পত্তি উৎপাদন করে, যাদের দ্বারা ধনিক-বণিক, রাজা, মহারাজারা বেঁচে আছে আগে তাদের বাঁচাবার বন্দোবস্ত করা উচিৎ।

আমাদের দেশ থেকে হেকিমি-শাস্ত্র লোপ হোতে বসেছে। দিল্লীর সম্রাটেরা যখন এদেশে রাজত্ব কোরতেন তখন হেকিমিদের দ্বারাই কাজ চোলত, তখন ডাক্তার ছিল না। কাজে কাজেই দেশে মৌলভী সাহেবদের কিছু কিছু সাহায্য দিয়ে হেকিমি-শাস্ত্রের বিস্তার করা উচিৎ। মুখে মুসলমান মুসলমান বোললে চলে না, মুসলমানের উপকারের জন্য বাজেটে ব্যয়-বরাদ্দ কোরে দিন। আমাদের লক্ষ্মীপুরে হেকিম মফিজ ও আফাজ নামে দুজন মৌলভী ডিষ্ট্রিক্ট বোর্ডের সাহায্য নিয়ে মনিহুল মুল্‌ক মরহুম হেকিম আজমল খান সাহেবের দিল্লীস্থিত তিবি কলেজ হইতে পাশ কোরে এসে বোসে একজন ছোট একটি dispensary খুলেছে, আর একজন বেকার হোয়ে ঘুরে বেড়াচ্ছে। গভর্ণমেন্টের উচিৎ তাহাদের একটি করে হেকিমি দাওয়াখানা কোরে দেওয়া। মুসলমান মন্ত্রীদের উচিৎ মাদ্রাসাগুলিতে হেকিমি শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা করা এবং কিছু কিছু সাহায্য করা। শুধু কথায় চিড়ে ভেজে না। কাজেই আমি বোলছি শুধু মুসলমান মুসলমান বোলে চিৎকার না কোরে প্রকৃত কাজ কিছু করুন। কৃষক-দরদী মন্ত্রীদের অনেক বক্তৃতা দিতে শুনেছি। তাঁরা প্রায় বোলে থাকেন তোমাদের ভাববার কিছুই নেই—আমরা সব কোরে দেব। কিন্তু কোরে দেবার বেলায় কিছুই নয়। কৃষকের উন্নতির জন্য কিছু কোর্ত্তে বোললে তাঁরা বলেন টাকা নেই। অন্যান্য সবার বেলায় টাকা রোয়েছে কেবল কৃষকের বেলায় টাকা নেই। আমি আর বেশী কিছু বোলতে চাই না। বাস্তবিক যদি কৃষকদের বাঁচিয়ে রাখা দরকার মনে করেন তাহোলে মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী অবিলম্বে প্রত্যেক ইউনিয়নে একটি কোরে dispensary র বন্দোবস্ত কোরে দিন এবং সঙ্গে সঙ্গে কৃষকরা যাতে এই সব dispensary তে seat পেতে পারে তার ব্যবস্থা কোরে দিন। তাদের জন্য যদি চিকিৎসা ও ঔষধপত্রের ব্যবস্থা করে না দেওয়া হয় তাহোলে তারা বাঁচবে না এই আমার বক্তব্য।

Maulana MD. ABDUL AZIZ: মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, মেডিকাল বাজেট সম্বন্ধে আলোচনা কোরতে যেয়ে আমি খুব দুঃখের সহিত বোলছি যে এ বাজেটে গ্রামবাসীদের চিকিৎসার কোন ব্যবস্থা নাই। বাংলায় প্রায় এক লক্ষ গ্রাম, এবং সে অনুপাতে সহরের সংখ্যা খুব কম। চিকিৎসা-সম্বন্ধে যে সুবিধা সহরে আছে, তার শতাংশের একাংশও গ্রামে নাই, অথচ এই গ্রামগুলিই সহরকে বাঁচিয়ে রাখে। (A MEMBER: আপনি কি বোল্লেন?) আমরা গ্রামের লোকদের খবর রাখি। আমার বন্ধু যিনি আমাকে জিজ্ঞাসা কোরলেন "আপনি কি বোল্লেন" তারা সব সহরবাসী, তাঁরা গ্রামে যান না। আমার মনে ইচ্ছা হয়, সহরবাসী লোকদের ধোরে ধোরে গ্রামে নেবার জন্য। গ্রামে গিয়ে দু-চার বৎসর থাকলে এঁদের মনে গ্রামের idea জাগবে, তখন এঁরা বুঝতে পারবেন যে আমরা কি বোলছি। ((Mr. ASIMUDDIN AHMED: আমরা জানি, আমরাও গ্রামে থাকি।) গ্রামের মধ্যে এলোপ্যাথিক চিকিৎসার বন্দোবস্ত থাকা তো দূরের কথা অল্প খরচের হোমিওপ্যাথিক চিকিৎসার বন্দোবস্ত পর্যান্ত নাই। আমরা প্রতি বৎসর গভর্ণমেন্টকে অনুরোধ কোরে আসছি যে অন্ততঃ প্রত্যেক ইউনিয়নে ইউনিয়নে দাতব্য চিকিৎসার বন্দোবস্ত করার জন্য। আমাদের গ্রামের আজ এমন অবস্থা যে এমন থানা আছে যে থানার মধ্যে আজ পর্যান্ত কোন চিকিৎসার বন্দোবস্ত হয় নাই। (Mr. M. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: আপনি একটা ফতোয়া দিন না।) চিকিৎসার অভাবে গ্রামের লোকেরা বসন্তে, ম্যালেরিয়ায়, কালাজ্বরে জর্জ্জরিত। Laughter. আমার কথায় বন্ধুরা হাসছেন। হাসবেনই তো। কবি বোলেছেন:

যতদিন ভবে না হবে না হবে তোমার অবস্থা আমার সম,
বুঝে না বুঝিবে, দেখে না দেখিবে, ঈষৎ হাসিবে যাতনায় মম।
চির সুখি জন ভ্রমে কি কখন ব্যথিত বেদন বুঝিতে পারে?
কি বেদনা বিষে, বুঝিবে সে কিসে
কভু আশী-বিষে দংশেনি যারে।

যারা বড় লোক তারা দরিদ্রের দুঃখে কাঁদবে কেন? বড় লোকেরাই দরিদ্রের দুঃখে হাসতে পারে। (Mr. ABU HOSSAIN SARKER: সেই জন্য খাজা আর নবাব সাহেবরা হাসছেন।) বড় লোকেরা কাঁদার কোন জিনিষ দুনিয়ায় আছে কি না জানেন না। সেই জন্য তাঁদের হাসিতে আমার কোন দুঃখ নাই। আমি গভর্ণমেন্টকে একটা অনুরোধ কোরছি—গ্রামের চিকিৎসার অভাব দূর কোরতে হোলে তাঁরা একটা পন্থা অবলম্বন কোরতে পারেন। সেটা হোচ্ছে এই যে এই ভারতবর্ষের মধ্যে পূর্ব্বে হেকিমি চিকিৎসার বড়ই উন্নতি হোয়েছিল। আজো হিন্দুস্থানে দু-একটা হেকিমি কলেজ আছে, এবং তার ফলাফল আপনারা জানেন। এখানে একটা তিবিয়া কলেজ খুলে যদি মৌলভী সাহেবদের জন্য শিক্ষার বন্দোবস্ত করা যায়, তাহলে যে সব মৌলভিরা পাশ কোরবেন তাঁরা গ্রামে গ্রামে হেদায়েৎ কোরতে যাবেন এবং সঙ্গে সঙ্গে চিকিৎসাও কোরবেন। (Mr. M. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: সঙ্গে সঙ্গে পার্টির প্রোপাগ্যাণ্ডাও কোরবেন।) আমি আশা করি গভর্ণমেন্ট আমার এই প্রস্তাব অনুসারে কাজ কোরবেন। (FROM THE PRAJA GROUP: আমিন, আমিন।) আর গভর্ণমেন্ট যদি পৃথকভাবে তিবিয়া কলেজ কোরতে অসুবিধা মনে করেন তাহলে মাদ্রাসাগুলিতে তিবিয়া পড়ার বন্দোবস্ত কোরে দিলেও আমরা সুখী হবো। তাহাতে গ্রামের চিকিৎসার অভাব দূর হবে।

Mr. HARENDRA NATH DOLUI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to support the motion moved by Mr. Banerjee this afternoon in budget debate. In this connection I wish to speak a few words about the importance of homeopathic treatment amongst the inhabitants of this province.

The system of medical treatment by homeopathy is not unknown to the people of this land. Almost all the civilised people on the face of the earth recognise it and speak highly of its marvellous action on human system.

It is a scientific treatment, Sir. It is based purely on laws and dogmas of nature. Natural laws are the predominant factors of this system of medical treatment. The morbid condition of a man itself indicates the remedy just required for the healing of the disease. So the signs and symptoms are the only criteria to proceed with this nature treatment.

In order to be acquainted close to the plays of nature on a sick person it takes into its study anatomy, physiology, botany, chemistry, midwifery, pathology, surgery and numerous works of eminent physicians of the world.

The preparation of medicine administered by homeopathic treatment is really a miracle. Single remedy and minutenness of its dose is the characteristic feature of the system of treatment. The more the medicine is minute, the greater is the action prompt on human economy. The method of treatment is very simple and less troublesome to the patient as well as to the household. It is also less expensive in comparison with other systems of treatment. Almost all the diseases current in this province—typhoid, phenumonia, cholera, small-pox, tuberculosis and even the fell disease like malaria are also successfully treated by this system of medical treatment.

It is by no means, Sir, inferior to the other school of medicine which is favoured and highly patronised by this our present Government. I do not know why our Government refrains from patronising and recognising such a beautiful system of medical science. It is a matter of great regret, Sir, that our present Government demands from the public a huge sum of money in order to create a Homeopathic Faculty Board of Recognition. It is really a disgrace to the Government to demand such public money.

In this present critical moment of economic distress throughout the length and breadth of this country, when the cry for medical help from remotest corner of the rural areas reaches the ears of Government authorities and when they wish to turn their deaf ear to it, my humble suggestion under these circumstances is: let our Government help in the spread of this system of medical treatment and start charitable dispensaries and hospitals in different unions in different districts of the province. It is absolutely necessary and I know from my experience that people want it and love it. At a very minimum expenditure a large number of patients can be helped, and thereby it will lessen the burden of demand on this head on budget estimate.

With these few words, Sir, I support wholeheartedly the motion of Mr. Banerjee on my right and resume my seat.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Sir, as the time at my disposal is very short and as the discussion on this subject has already become a lengthy one, I must be very brief in my remarks.

Sir, it is gratifying to note that the Government have proceeded with some of the schemes which we gave notice of before. In this year's budget although there is not much money provided for the establishment of rural dispensaries and other matters, there is still some hope that this work will be done in the near future, and I would request the Hon'ble Minister to expedite the matter as early as possible. To-day, Sir, I am only putting forward some suggestions for the consideration of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Medical and Public Health.

Rs. 10,000 has been provided as recurring grant-in-aid to the Jadavpur Tuberculosis Hospital on condition that 10 beds shall be kept reserved for the people of the mufassal. I would request the Government to see that these 10 beds are kept available for the mufassal people. As we all know that tuberculosis is rapidly spreading, some immediate steps should be taken in this direction. I suggest that the Assistant Surgeons in all the subdivisions should have a short course of training so that the people of the locality who are suspected to be suffering from tuberculosis may have free examination.

I would also point out that Government should establish a sanitarium for the treatment of tuberculosis without delay. In this connection I may say that the site selected at Kalimpong is the best in our opinion. But Government may further investigate into the matter of a suitable place: what we want, however, is that without wasting further time Government should establish a tuberculosis sanitarium.

Another thing, Sir, which I want to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to is that there is a huge number of lepers throughout Bengal: I do not know if Government is taking any measure to prevent the spreading of this fell disease. I suggest that a home for the lepers be established: they should not be allowed to roam about in the streets and spread the disease.

(Here the member reached the time-limit and was allowed one minute to finish his speech.)

One word I would like to say with regard to the admission of patients into the Medical College Hospitals. Last year in my speech I pointed out the difficulty about getting admission into the Medical College Hospitals. Sir, the fact is that a person who can get recommendations of big men or approach through a doctor can get admission

into the hospital easily, but those who cannot get such recommendations seldom get admission. Then, Sir, differential treatment is meted out to the patients in the hospital. Such differential treatment should not exist, and I draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to this fact for remedy. It is very difficult for mufassal people to get admission into the Medical College Hospitals and unless they could spend some money they are refused admission.

Then, Sir, another thing is in conenction with the scheme adumbrated by the Government to establish union board dispensaries. I think it would solve the problem of scarcity of water if Government could establish one dispensary in two unions for the present without making any delay in the matter of giving effect to the scheme. Then, Sir, eye dispensaries should be established in every district for the treatment of blindness and bad vision. If it is not possible at present, then increase the number of travelling eye dispensaries.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Sir, I would like to have only a few minutes and let me begin with the Hon'ble Minister's statement not from the beginning but from his concluding portion where he has said that Government have no Aladin's lamp. May I request the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur to go in search of Sultan Saladin's talisman so that he can find some remedy?

With this remark, let me come to my own point. I am speaking on behalf of a charitable dispensary in the village of Raigram under the union board of Noagram, police-station Lohagara, in the district of Jessore. Government have, if I am correct, declared their intention to start a new dispensary in very union board; but I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the fact that far from establishing new dispensaries in new union boards, they have utterly failed in maintaining those dispensaries which have been in existence for more than 20 years. The dispensary of which particularly I am speaking has been in existence for more than 20 years and was started with the understanding with the Government of Bengal that in cases of financial difficulty, they would see that the district board would help it to some extent. But for the last 10 years, the contribution from the district board has been gradually decreasing and now the condition of the dispensary has become hopeless. Under the circumstances, may I draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister not to make declarations—I mean, big declarations—of starting dispensaries in every union board, but at least to maintain those dispensaries which are in existence for the last 20 years or more than that? I would request the Hon'ble Minister to attend to the needs of rural Bengal and see if they can at least maintain the existing dispensaries.

Sir, there are so many other points to be discussed, but I do not wish to indulge in them. Still I cannot but mention only one point regarding blindness and the travelling eye dispensaries of which mention was made by the Hon'ble Minister. Perhaps the Hon'ble Minister is not aware of the fact that there are many strong, healthy young men who have lost their eye-sight due to glocuma or due to beri-beri. What have these travelling eye dispensaries been doing so long? If the Hon'ble Minister tours in rural Bengal, the information will be easily available as to what is the total number of youths who have lost their eye-sight due to glocuma or due to beri-beri. I hope that with these few words, I would be able to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to do the needful in the matter of the dispensary I have just mentioned.

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Sir, when the first Minister for Local Self-Government got up to move his demand in this House and explained that he had not the time to study the department under his charge he got claps from the other side for making a statement of that character. When I explained that I had only taken charge about three weeks ago, I heard a long and delightful speech from my friend Mr. Waliur Rahman. I would suggest to him that he would ask his ex-Minister friend what he had done for a year while he was the Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department.

Now, Sir, let me turn to the cut motion moved by my friend Mr. J. N. Basu. I wish to inform him that the Government are sincere in establishing these different indigenous faculties and certain faculties have already been established. There is already, as far as I understand, a surplus of more than 30 to 40 thousand rupees. Now, when these faculties have been established and when they come forward to Government for necessary expenses in establishing medical institutions, it shall be considered by Government and given a sympathetic consideration. But till then it is difficult for Government to go out of their way to budget any sum for these different faculties.

Regarding the Homeopathic Faculty, I can assure my friend Mr. Sanyal that a Homeopathic Faculty is going to be established very soon. They have already collected a large sum of money, and I trust that within a few weeks it will be established, and if they come up to Government after the Faculty had been established and ask Government for any help, Government will sympathetically consider the proposal.

My friend Mr. Giasuddin Ahmed has been saying that Government has not established dispensaries in every village. I am afraid

that it is not possible for any Government to establish a dispensary in every village. There are about a lakh of villages, and it will require a lakh of dispensaries and with the present finances of Government it is almost impracticable. But I have already mentioned that the Government is proposing to establish dispensaries in every two unions and that proposal has matured and I hope in a very short time I shall come up before the House with a supplementary budget so that we may be able to establish a dispensary in every two unions in Bengal. That is a preliminary. If the finances of Government are sufficient, I can assure the House that we shall then try to establish a dispensary in every union. ("Hear, hear" from Coalition Benches.)

There were many other gentlemen who spoke at great length, but I am sorry I could not follow them properly, but they indulged more or less in criticisms. My friend, Khan Bahadur Abdur Rouf, I think, made a mistake when he said that Government has only granted Rs. 2,700 for dispensaries. Government has granted Rs. 1,50,000 as a recurring grant for union board dispensaries. I said in my statement that Government has not made any provision for the Public Health Units. There is a scheme in regard to this and as soon as that scheme is approved by the Finance Department, we shall provide money in a supplementary budget.

In regard to food adulteration, I do not see how it comes into the budget. But I can assure the members of the House and we are bringing in a Bill in July Session next which will be a comprehensive Bill and include the question of food adulteration and other subjects of the Public Health Department.

My friend Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar wanted me to announce a grant to the Dental College in Calcutta. I can assure him that Government has already appointed a Dentistry Board and if this Dental College applies to this Board which is being established and if the Board approve of it, Government will certainly consider the question of granting sufficient funds for this Dental College.

Mr. SPEAKER: Nawab Bahadur, I hope you are not replying to the Lohagara Dispensary (laughter).

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: I can assure my friend, Khan Bahadur Jalaluddin Ahmed, that Government will sympathetically consider all the suggestions he has made, and we shall try and see if it is possible to carry out all his suggestions.

In the same way all the suggestions that have been made by different members will be considered sympathetically, and I can assure them that we shall try our best to see if we can accede to their demands.

Sir, I think I have replied to all the points raised and in the statement I have laid before the House I have explained the Government position and what I propose to do. I have nothing further to say, and I would request the honourable members to withdraw their cut motions. Otherwise I will have to oppose them.

The motion of Mr. Jatindra Nath Basu that the demand of Rs. 51,27,000 under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The demand of Mr. Giasuddin Ahmed that the demand of Rs. 51,27,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and a division taken with the following result.

AYES—44.

Abdul Wahed, Maulvi.
Abu Hossain Sarkar, Maulvi
Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.
Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed.
Asimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Banerji, Mr. P.
Banerjee, Mr. Pramatha Nath
Basu, Mr. Santosh Kumar.
Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath.
Chakrabarty, Babu Narendra Narayan
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath.
Das, Babu Mohim Chandra.
Das, Babu Radhanath.
Das Gupta, Babu Khagendra Nath.
Datta, Mr. Dhirendra Nath.
Deloi, Mr. Harendra Nath.
Emdadul Haque, Kazi.
Ghose, Mr. Atul Krishna.
Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Gupta, Mr. Jogesh Chandra.
Hasan Ali Chowdhury, Mr. Syed.
Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi.
Khan, Mr. Debendra Lall
Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra.
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.
Maiti, Mr. Nikunja Behari.
Maji, Mr. Advaita Kumar.
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova.
Mal, Mr. Iswar Chandra.
Mandal, Mr. Amrita Lal.
Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md.
Maqbul Hossain, Mr.
Mukherji, Mr. Dhirendra Narayan.
Mukherji, Dr. Sharat Chandra.
Mullick, Srijut Ashutosh.
Ramizuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath.
Sanyal, Dr. Nalinaksha.
Sanyal, Mr. Sasankar Sekhar.
Shahedali, Mr.
Shamsuddin Ahmed, Mr. M.
Sinha, Srijut Manindra Bhusan.
Wahiur Rahman, Maulvi.

NOES—71.

Abdul Aziz, Maulana. Md.
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza.
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mia.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed.
Abdulla-al-Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rahman, Khan Bahadur A.F.M.
Abdur Rashid Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rashood, Maulvi Md.
Abdur Razzak, Maulvi.
Abdus Shaheed, Maulvi Md.
Abul Hossain Ahmed, Mr.
Abul Quasem, Maulvi.
Ahmed-Ali Mridha, Maulvi.
Ahmed Hossain, Mr.
Amanullah, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Amir Ali Mia, Maulvi Md.
Ashrafuddin, Mr. M.
Asiad Hossain Khan, Maulvi.
Azhar Ali, Maulvi.
Badruddoja, Mr. Syed.
Chippendale, Mr. J. W.
Das, Mr. Anukul Chandra.
Dass, Babu Debendra Nath.
Farhad Raza Chowdhury, Mr. M.
Farhat Bano Khanam, Begum.
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca).
Gyasuddin Ahmed Choudhury, Alhaj.
Habibullah, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur K., of Dacca.
Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Maulvi.
Hamiduddin Ahmed, Khan Sahib.
Hamilton, Mr. K. A.
Hawkings, Mr. R. J.
Heywood, Mr. Rogers.
Idris Ahmed Mia, Maulvi.
Jalaluddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.

Jaumuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Maulvi.
Mafizuddin Choudhury, Maulvi.
Mahtabuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Mandal, Mr. Banku Behari.
Mandal, Mr. Jagat Chandra.
Miliar, Mr. C.
Mollah Ali, Mollah, Maulvi.
Mozammel Hoq, Maulvi Md.
Muhammad Afzal, Khan Sahib Maulvi Syed.
Muhammad Ibrahim, Maulvi.
Muhammad Ishaque, Maulvi.
Muhammad Siddique, Khan Bahadur Dr. Syed.
Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behary.
Mullick, Mr. Pulin Behary.
Mustagawai Haque, Mr. Syed.
Nandy, the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra, of of Cossimbazar.
Nasarullah, Nawabzada K.
Nazimuddin, the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir, K.C.I.E.
Raikut, the Hon'ble Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Razaur Rahman Khan, Mr.
Roy, the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh.
Roy, Mr. Patiram.
Sahabe Alum, Mr. Syed.
Salim, Mr. S. A.
Sanaullah, Al-Haj Maulana Dr.
Sarkar, Babu Madhusudan.
Shahabuddin, Mr. Khwaja, C.B.E.
Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda.
Smith, Mr. H. Brabent.
Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr.
Tofel Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi Haji.
Zahur Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi.

The Ayes being 44 and the Noes 71, the motion was lost.

The motion of Dr. Sharat Chandra Mukherji that the demand of Rs. 51,27,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca, that a sum of Rs. 51,27,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" was then put and agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before I adjourn the House, I may say that after a discussion between the Opposition and the Coalition Parties we have come to an agreement that there will be no sitting of the Assembly on Saturday, the 16th March. In order to adjust that, I issued a circular to-day that it is possible that we may take up "Land Revenue" to-morrow and continue it till Monday

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: Sir, it will be very difficult for us to take up Land Revenue to-morrow.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Sir, "Land Revenue" is a major head.

Mr. SPEAKER: We shall try to take it up to-morrow. I do not want to finish it to-morrow. Discussion on it will be continued on Monday next.

Adjournment.

It being 8-5 p.m.—

The House was adjourned till 4-45 p.m. on Friday, the 15th March, 1940, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Friday, the 15th March, 1940, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E.) in the Chair, 10 Hon'ble Ministers and 212 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Vacancies filled up by District Judge, Bakarganj, after March 17, 1939.

*226. **Khan Sahib Maulvi SYED MD. AFZAL:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial Department aware—

(*i*) that all the vacancies, permanent and temporary, that occurred under the District Judge of Bakarganj after the 17th of March, 1939, were filled up by non-Muhammadans; and

(*ii*) that the said vacancies were not duly advertised as required under rule 1013(*ii*), Civil Rules and Orders?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps the Government have taken or contemplate taking to enforce the rule and the Government circular?

MINISTER in charge of the JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruff Hossain, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) (*i*) Seven permanent vacancies were not filled up as not being permissible under the Cadre Rules.

The following posts were, however, filled up as indicated below:—

Two posts of stenographers were filled up by Caste Hindus as a result of competitive examination held after advertisement among the candidates, both Hindus and Muhammadans, the first and second in the examination being selected.

One temporary additional translator was appointed by office promotion, the selection being a member of the Scheduled Castes, and no suitable Muhammadan senior to him being available.

Two seniormost retrenched clerks were appointed for short periods to fill up temporary posts, but they have been discharged

(*ii*) Does not arise.

(*b*) The question whether these appointments are in accordance with the communal ratio decision is being examined by the Communal Ratio Officer who will take steps to have the appointments adjusted, if necessary.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how and in which papers this advertisement was made for the post of the stenographers in the district of Bakarganj?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: In the local papers.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the names of the papers? Or is the Hon'ble Minister sure that they were at all advertised in the local papers? Or does he say so only by guess?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: Sir, my reply is there.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: But, Sir, in which local papers —what are their names?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: If that information is wanted, then, Sir, I would ask for notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*a*) (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why was a competitive examination found necessary to fill up the two posts of the stenographers while the required communal ratio might be complied with by appointing any two suitable Muslim candidates?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: Sir, this is a matter under investigation at the present moment. Our Communal Ratio Officer has taken up this question and so far as I know there is no provision for these appointments being filled up by competitive examination. But it has been done, and whether it has

been done rightly or wrongly is still a matter of issue before the Communal Ratio Officer. So I hope my friend will wait for some time till he has considered the matter and given his decision.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: The Hon'ble Minister's answer (*a*) (*i*) to which he referred me does not indicate that the posts were advertised in the local papers. In that answer I do not find anywhere that the posts were advertised in the local papers.

Mr. SPEAKER: Well, the Hon'ble Minister has said already that if you want details then he asks for notice.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there is a great feeling that there was no advertisement and that it was only a farce of a test that was held at which these two stenographers were selected?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: I am not aware.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the two retrenched clerks who were appointed were subsequently discharged?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: Well, Sir, they were discharged because they held temporary posts.

Orders issued to boatmen of Senhatighat by the Sub-Inspector of Police, Daulatpur.

*227. **Mr. J. N. GUPTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Sub-Inspector of Police, Daulatpur, in the district of Khulna, has issued the following verbal orders to the boatmen of Senhatighat:—

(*i*) that they must not go to Daulatpur steamer *ghat* (railway station *ghat*) without passengers; and

(*ii*) that they must not take any passenger from Daulatpur steamer *ghat*?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason for such order?

(*c*) Has any regulation been issued by the Government to control the boat traffic on the river Bhairab?

(*d*) If so, when was it issued?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) and (*c*) No

(*b*) and (*d*) Do not arise.

Appointment of a Special Officer to examine the question of improving the pay and prospects of inferior servants.

*228. **Maulvi ABDUL HAMID SHAH:** (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department been drawn to the reply given on the 15th December last by the ex-Minister of the Department to the resolution moved by Kazi Emdadul Huq?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any Special Officer appointed has been—

(*i*) investigating into the question of improving the pay and prospects of the inferior employees; and

(*ii*) formulating a scheme which can gradually be given effect to by the Government?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the approximate time when the report of the officer may be expected?

MINISTER in charge of the FINANCE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) An officer has been placed on special duty to examine the question of improving the pay and prospects of inferior servants.

(*c*) He is expected to report within six months.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when was this officer appointed on a special pay?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Recently, Sir.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: How many months ago?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I am not quite sure, Sir; only a little while ago.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the reasons for the Special Officer taking so long a period to submit his report?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, I can only hope that he will finish his report within six months; or he may take a longer time

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has not answered my question My question was as to the reasons why this officer was taking so long a time to submit his report

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think that is a fair question

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the leave and pension question also will be the subject matter of the Special Officer's enquiry?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Yes, it is

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়, অনুগ্রহ করে বোলবেন কি এই রিপোর্ট পাওয়ার আগে, এই যুদ্ধের জন্য খাদ্য শস্য এবং অন্যান্য জিনিষের মূল্য বৃদ্ধি হোয়েছে- সে জন্য তারা কিছু সুবিধা পাবে কি না সে বিষয় গভর্ণমেন্ট কি কোন বিবেচনা কোরবেন?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government would consider the desirability of increasing the initial pay of the inferior servants?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: The matter is under enquiry, Sir

Rural reconstruction societies on co-operative basis in Rajshahi district.

*229. **Maulvi MANIRUDDIN AKHAND:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department be pleased to state—

(i) the number of rural reconstruction societies organised in the Rajshahi district on co-operative basis up to the present time;

(*ii*) whether any of these societies have done work by excavating irrigation *khals*, tanks for drinking water and village road by voluntary labour; and

(*iii*) whether any of these societies have introduced subsidiary occupation in the agricultural and cottage industry field for their members?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*ii*) and (*iii*) is in the negative, what steps does the Hon'ble Minister contemplate taking in the matter?

MINISTER in charge of the CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT and RURAL INDEBTEDNESS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behary Mullick): (*a*) (*i*) 19

(*ii*) No.

(*iii*) Yes.

(*b*) Government have sanctioned a separate staff of ten Inspectors for looking after Co-operative Better Living Societies in Bengal, so that with special supervision they may be more effectively encouraged to progress on practical lines.

Organisation of rural reconstruction societies during the last three financial years.

***230. Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the years 1936-37, 1937-38 and 1938-39—

(*i*) the number of co-operative rural reconstruction societies formed;

(*ii*) the number of the co-operative rural reconstruction societies that were inspected;

(*iii*) the number of them that were audited;

(*iv*) the amount of financial help given to these societies;

(*v*) the number of these societies that received financial help; and

(*vi*) the number of these societies that are still functioning?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what arrangements, if any, have been made for the proper working of these societies?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: (*a*) (*i*) to (*vi*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*b*) Government have sanctioned a separate staff of ten Inspectors for looking after Co-operative Better Living Societies in Bengal so that with special supervision they may be more effectively encouraged to progress on practical lines.

Statement referred to in clause (a) (i) to (vi) in the reply to starred question No. 230.

Year.	(i) Number of co-operative rural recon-struction societies formed.	(ii) Number of rural recon-struction societies inspected.	(iii) Number of rural recon-struction societies audited.	(iv) Amount of financial help given to rural reconstruc-tion societies.	(v) Number of rural recon-struction societies that received financial help.	(vi) Number of rural recon-struction societies still func-tioning.
				Rs a. p.		
936-37	488	266	141	5,419 0 0	3	
937-38	51	387	305	2,865 14 0	9	
938-39	55	395	299	3,488 3 6	7	
						347

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps the Government propose to take to co-ordinate the activities of these officers with those of the Department of the Director of Rural Reconstruction?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: Sir, I do not understand how this question arises.

Mr. SPEAKER: How do you connect your question with the original question?

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Well, Sir, my idea is that piece-meal work done by the Co-operative Better Living Societies in Bengal will be quite useless unless it is co-ordinated with the activities of the Department of the Director of Reconstruction who should co-ordinate and direct all the activities of all similar other departments and pool all the resources of the departments together.

Mr. SPEAKER: Very pertinent no doubt, but not pertinent to the present question.

Irregularities in steamer service from Serajganj to Charabari.

*231. **Mr. AMRITA LAL MANDAL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works (Irrigation) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the ferry service from Serajganj to Charabari which is the connecting link of communication with Tangail is not running with regularity owing to shallowness of the river channel?

(*b*) If so, what steps have the Government taken for dredging the channel?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(*i*) that the ferry steamer does not ply on Sunday; and

(*ii*) that the steamer company are not plying steam launch for easy communication in shallow water?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to urge upon the steamer company to remove the grievances of the public?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar): (*a*) I am informed that the ferry service is running regularly except on Sundays at present

(*b*) and (*d*) Do not arise

(*c*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) I understand that the steamer company runs a stern wheeler steam launch named "Betwa" at present

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the ferry service is not running on Sundays?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I believe that is the practice I am afraid I cannot give any reason save and except that Sunday is a holiday

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister kindly tell us if the Steamer Company has made any arrangement for Sundays?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I would refer the honourable member to my reply.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় কি স্বীকার করেন যে shallowness of water এর দরুণ যে ষ্টীমারখানা সেখানে দস্তুরমত যাতায়াত কোরতো সেখানা আর যাতায়াত কোরতে পারে না?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: It may be so, but as I have stated the service is running.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: আমার প্রশ্নটার উত্তর দেওয়া হলো না, Sir. আমার প্রশ্নটা হোচ্ছে—owing to shallowness of water—এই shallowness এর কথাটা মন্ত্রী মহাশয় স্বীকার করেন কিম্বা করেন না এই জিনিষটা আমার জানা দরকার।

Mr. SPEAKER: The main object of the question is to ascertain whether the service is running regularly and he says that it is running regularly

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: আমার বলবার উদ্দেশ্য এই যে এই ষ্টীমারখানার পরিবর্ত্তে মোটর লঞ্চ দেওয়া হয়েছিল, কিন্তু সেটাদ্বারা সংকুলন না হওয়ায় যে ষ্টীমারখানা দিয়েছেন সেখানা shallowness of water এর জন্য চোলতে পারছে না এ কথা মন্ত্রী মহাশয় স্বীকার করেন কি না। এবং যদি তিনি স্বীকার করেন তাহলে আমার পরের প্রশ্ন হোতো—এটা ডেফিসিট এর আবশ্যক এ কথা মন্ত্রী মহাশয় স্বীকার করেন কি না?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid then the question has not been properly framed It should have been put differently.

Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI: With reference to answer (a) where it is said that the service is running regularly, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the service reaches its destination punctually at the appointed time?

Mr. SPEAKER: Punctuality is not guaranteed

Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI: The essence of the question is not whether it is running but whether it is running regularly and punctually?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I don't think that any steamer service can be very punctual always.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Forms for inviting tenders by the Communications and Works Department.

112. Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the various forms in force in which tenders are invited by the Communications and Works Department for original works and repair works under Buildings, Communications and Irrigation heads;

(*ii*) whether any rules have been laid down for the use of particular forms for different classes of work;

(*iii*) the list of original works for which tenders in form K2 were invited during the period from 1st April, 1937, to the latest available date showing the amount estimated for in each case; and

(*iv*) the time within which the work was to be completed?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in how many cases out of the above the work could not be finished within the—

(1) estimated time; and

(2) estimated expenditure?

(*c*) What action has been taken so far to give effect to the recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee for 1939-40, regarding revision of the Tender Forms?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: (*a*) (*i*)—(1) K2 form for piece work agreements.

(2) H form for the supply of materials within a stipulated time.

(3) G form for lump sum contract.

(4) K1 form—This not only stipulates the rates at which the work is to be done but also the time within which the work is to be completed. This is seldom used nowadays.

The tender form generally now in use for work is P.W.D. form K2 which is a piece work agreement providing for payment of work done at a stipulated rate without reference to quantity or time.

(*ii*) In accordance with orders issued by Government in 1922 work is usually tendered for in K2 form. Attention is also invited to rules 175-177, Bengal Financial Rules, and paragraph 247 of the Government of India, Public Works Department Code, 10th Edition.

(*iii*), (*iv*) and (*b*) The collection of material for an answer to these questions would necessitate the employment of additional staff and thus involve expenditure which I cannot commend to the House

(*c*) The recommendation is under consideration.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (*a*) (*i*) regarding K2 form for piece work agreement, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there has been any work done under the direction or auspices of the Public Works Department which has been in any other form than K2 form?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I would refer the honourable member to my reply (4), which says that K2 form is now in general use

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I want to know if there has been any one single instance of any other form than K2 form being used?

Mr. SPEAKER: Within which time?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Any time, say within twenty years? Within the last twenty years has there been a single instance in which any other form than K2 form was used?

Mr. SPEAKER: I don't think that it is a fair question to ask.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: If you like, I shall limit the period to three years

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: It is difficult for me to give a reply to that question. As I have said, K2 form is now generally used, whereas the other forms are rarely used.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it a fact that all big works, apart from mere piece work agreements, like Nabaran-Satkhira Road, Anderson House, and Brabourne College, have all been undertaken under K2 form?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: That is so.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it a fact that the rule 175 of the Bengal Financial Rules definitely states that agreements for the execution of work by piece work are not to be executed under contract work?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I would refer the honourable member to the rest of the rules where he will find that there may be contracts for piece work as well.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is not so. I submit that here the question as answered refers to form K2 for piece work agreements and, in the rule referred to, it is specifically said: "The recognised systems for carrying out work otherwise than by the employment of daily labour are 'Piece work' and 'Contract work'. Piece work is that for which only a rate is agreed upon, without reference to the total quantity of work to be done or the quantity to be done within a given period The term 'Contract' as used in this chapter does not include agreements for the execution of work by piece work, nor does it include mere ordinary purchases of materials or stores. All other work done under agreement is termed 'contract work' and in agreements for such work which should invariably be in writing, there should generally be a stipulation as to the quantity of work to be done and the time within which it is to be completed." May I know in reference to this if it is the practice with Government not to mention any time-limit or any quantity of work at all in their agreements?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I have referred not only to rule 175 but to rules 175-177. With regard to K2 form, it is an agreement for rates only without reference to quantity or time.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May I know if there has been any work during the Hon'ble Minister's regime in which a stipulation about the time or about the quantity of work to be done has been made in any contract?

Mr. SPEAKER: As I understand from the reply, the difference is this. In the one case, there is a stipulation of rate without time or quantity. In the other case, there is a stipulation of both quantity and time.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: No, Sir. The difference is more fundamental. In the one case, it is said to be mere piece work for a certain specific piece of work without any reference to any obligation

on the part of the contractor to complete it within a time or to do a particular quantity of work, whereas in the other form, K1 form, it is mentioned that both these are important factors. So, I would like to know if it is the practice with Government to keep their contractors completely free to choose their own time about the completion——

Mr. SPEAKER: You ask then whether any other form is in use.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I asked that question first of all. He has given a reply to the effect that usually form K2 is used. I, therefore, ask him if he knows of any one case in which any other form than K2 form has been used

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: As I have stated, there might be one or two cases.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Can you please quote any?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I think I can. Agreement was drawn up on the lines of G form for the new Custom House

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is not the work of the Government of Bengal

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: The same was the case with Cossye bridge, Midnapore

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will you kindly make sure before you say anything about the bridge?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I am pretty sure about it

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: He is avoiding a reply to my question In connection with that bridge, has there been any stipulation about the completion of the work within a specified time?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: It is difficult to say whether there is any such stipulation. I am afraid I cannot answer that question off-hand.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (iii), (iv) and (b) where he states that the collection of material for an answer to this question would necessitate the employment of additional

staff, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any record is kept in the office of the Chief Engineer of the works done or contracted out under his department from year to year?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: These are kept in various offices, not necessarily in the office of the Chief Engineer. They may be in the Executive Engineer's office or in the Superintending Engineer's office

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there is any single item of work done under the Public Works Department during the last three years which could be finished within the estimated or stipulated time?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I have nothing further to add to my reply to (*a*) (*i*).

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there is any single instance which he can give in which the expenditure was kept within the estimated limit?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I cannot answer that question without notice and so have nothing further to add.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. The Hon'ble Minister says he is not in a position to throw any more light on this matter. I am entitled, Sir, to have certain information so long as this does not go beyond this question. I will have sympathy for him if he wants further notice, but I submit that he cannot withhold the information.

Mr. SPEAKER: He is not withholding it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: He says he has nothing further to add.

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Yes, I have nothing further to add to my answer to (*b*).

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The Hon'ble Minister simply says that the collection of material for an answer to these questions

would necessitate the employment of additional staff. Sir, I wanted to know if there was one single instance in which the Public Works Department had the work completed within the estimated time.

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Well, there must be many but if you want instances, certainly I want notice for that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give me one instance in which any original work—I do not mean any petty repair work but an original work like the Anderson House or the Lady Brabourne College—was done in a form other than the K2 form?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: As I have said, the general practice is to use K2 form and there is no time-limit in the K2 form

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, my whole argument is that the use of K2 form is not only the general practice but it is the invariable practice

Mr. SPEAKER: No argument, please What is your question?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, my point is that if the Hon'ble Minister says that it is the usual or general practice, there may be one variation at least. My question is—is the Hon'ble Minister aware that it is not only the usual but it is the invariable practice?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Yes, I have admitted that that is the general practice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: No, invariable.

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Yes, if you like that word.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there has been any work during the last three years given out on lump sum contract under G form?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I want notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there has been any work given out on contract during the last three years under H form?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I want notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there has been any work given out on contract during the last three years under Kl form?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: No.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when these forms were first approved by Government and introduced?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: It must be quite a long time back. It is very difficult to give the definite year.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that these forms were approved about 25 years or more before?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: It may be 25 years or more, I cannot say definitely.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (*a*) (*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Public Works Department Code is available to members as it is neither available in the Library nor anywhere else?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I am sorry to learn it. I will certainly look into this.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the Code is not available in the Library?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: had the impression that it would be available in the Library.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (c), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state by what time he expects Government to come to a decision about the revision of forms?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I may state for the information of the honourable members that I have already taken up the question for the revision of these contract forms. Sir, I admit that they are very old and they require some alteration and improvement. Unfortunately the War broke out and the necessity for the revision of the forms was retarded to some extent. Anyhow, the recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee is there and I shall certainly see what can be done in the matter.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: By what time?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: It is very difficult to give any idea of time, but I shall certainly see that it be taken up as early as possible.

Sinking of tube wells in Hooghly district.

113. Mr. DHIRENDRA NARAYAN MUKHERJI: (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state

(i) the number of tube wells and amount of grant sanctioned out of Government grant through thana water-supply committees in the district of Hooghly for the year 1939-40;

(ii) whether the selection of the site of such tube wells is made by the Subdivisional Magistrates concerned or by the Union Boards in meeting;

(iii) whether the money sanctioned for tube wells out of the Government grant is spent by the Subdivisional Magistrates or through the Union Boards concerned; and

(iv) whether after sanctioning grants for tube wells out of the Government fund the Subdivisional Magistrates communicate the sanction to the Union Boards concerned?

(b) If the answer to (a) (iv) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(i) whether the Subdivisional Magistrate of Arambagh informed the Union Board of Salepur of the sanction of Rs. 100 only for resinking a tube well at Brahmanpara of Salepur in Arambagh subdivision of Hooghly district; and

(*ii*) whether the tube well referred to in (*i*) was sunk from funds provided both by the Government and the Union Board of Salepur?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) (*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason why the Union Board of Salepur was not consulted in the matter of the selection of the site where the tube well is intended to be resunk?

(*d*) Is it a fact—

(*i*) that the Salepur Union Board and the Medical Officer of the District Board have objected to the removal of the tube well from its present site at Brahmanpara of Salepur; and

(*ii*) that the inhabitants of Salepur Brahmanpara submitted a petition to the Subdivisional Magistrate of Arambagh against the removal of the tube well from its present site?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of issuing definite instructions to the Subdivisional Magistrates regarding selection of site in cases of tube wells to be sunk out of Government grant?

MINISTER in charge of the PUBLIC HEALTH and LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca): (*a*) (*i*) Rs. 8,792. Projects for 94 tube-wells were sanctioned. The number is, however, liable to revision owing to the rise in the price of materials.

(*ii*) According to the policy adopted since 1938, sites of the water-supply works are selected by the thana water-supply committees subject to the approval of the District Engineer in consultation with the District Health Officer. The final control, however, rests with the district water-supply committee.

(*iii*) The amount sanctioned is disbursed by the District Officer on production of completion certificate given by the District Engineer which is granted after obtaining the reports from the Circle Officer and the Sanitary Inspector.

(*iv*) The Union Board is informed of the sanction in cases in which it has made a contribution or in which it is called on to execute the work.

(*b*) (*i*) The President of the Union Board was actually entrusted with the work.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*c*) The President of the Union Board was consulted; the President and two members of the Union Board were also members of the thana committee which selected the site.

(*d*) (*i*) The President of the Union Board and the Vice-Chairman of the District Board made objection.

(*ii*) There have been numerous petitions and counter-petitions.

(*e*) Definite instructions with regard to the selection of sites were issued in connection with the revised policy of 1938. The attention of the hon'ble member is invited to the answer given to (*a*) (*ii*) of the question.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*a*) (*ii*) where it has been said "the final control, however, rests with the District Water-supply Committee", will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that final selection of sites cannot be made without reference to the District Water-supply Committee?

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Yes.

Debt Settlement Boards in Cox's Bazar and Sadar subdivisions of Chittagong.

114. Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of Debt Settlement Boards that have been established in—

(1) Cox's Bazar subdivision, and

(2) Sadar subdivision, of Chittagong,

(*ii*) the number of Special Officers that have been appointed up to date from Chittagong; and

(*iii*) the communities they belong to?

(*b*) Who was responsible for selection of the last recruitment of these Special Officers?

(*c*) On what basis they were selected?

(*d*) Was there any candidate from Cox's Bazar subdivision, Chittagong?

(*e*) Is it a fact that none has been recruited from Cox's Bazar up to date?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: (*a*) (*i*) (1) 16, including 2 Special Boards; and (2) 67, including 5 Special Boards.

(*ii*) 10.

(*iii*) Muslim, Caste Hindu and Buddhist.

(*b*) Government.

(*c*) On the basis of recommendations of local officers.

(*d*) and (*e*) I have no information to show how many candidates came from Cox's Bazar subdivision.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state with reference to answer (*c*), who are these local officers referred to?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: The Collector of the district.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether these posts were referred to the Public Service Commission?

The Hon'ble Mr. MUKUNDA BEHARY MULLICK: Recommendations were made by the Public Service Commission and appointments have been made out of those recommendations.

Prohibition of entry of one Sirajul Haq into Calcutta and certain other notified areas.

115. Mr. DHIRENDRA NARAYAN MUKHERJEE: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware—

(*i*) that Maulvi Sirajul Haq of Hooghly convicted under section 19F for 5 years in the year 1931, November, had been served with a notice by the Government of Bengal prohibiting him from entering the city of Calcutta, Howrah, 24-Parganas, Chittagong, Midnapore and Darjeeling for 20 years soon after his release from the Andaman Jail in the year 1936, July;

(*ii*) that he has submitted several petitions to the Government of Bengal praying for the withdrawal of the ban; and

(*iii*) that he has been experiencing difficulties in conducting the business that he has started at Chinsura for earning the bread of his family?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether his case was placed before the committee appointed for investigation of the cases of political prisoners of this Province; and

(ii) if so, what is the result?

(c) If his case was not placed before the committee, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

(d) Do the Government contemplate the withdrawal of the ban?

(e) If the answer to (d) is in the negative, are the Government considering it desirable to withdraw that much of the ban which affects his entry to Calcutta?

(f) Is it a fact that Sirajul Haq was deprived of standing as a commissioner in the last Municipal Election of Hooghly-Chinsura Municipality held in 1938 by the Government of Bengal?

(g) If the answer to (f) be in the affirmative, will the Government be pleased to state the reasons?

(h) Do the Government intend withdrawing this ban against being a member of local bodies?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (a)(i) He has been removed under section 7(1)(b) of the Bengal Smuggling of Arms Act (VI of 1934). He is to remain outside the notified area, i.e., Calcutta, districts of Howrah, the 24-Parganas and Chittagong.

(ii) Two petitions were received.

(iii) He wanted to come to Calcutta in connection with newspapers agency.

(b)(i) No.

(ii) Does not arise.

(c) It was not the intention of Government to place such cases before any committee.

(d), (e) and (h) No.

(f) and (g) He was not eligible for election according to the provision of section 22(2) of the Bengal Municipal Act, 1932.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়, অনুগ্রহ কোরে জানাবেন কি মুক্তি পাবার পর সিরাজুল হক এমন কি কাজ কোরেছেন যার জন্য তাঁর উল্লিখিত স্থানসমূহে প্রবেশ নিষিদ্ধ হোয়েছে, অথবা তিনি যে কাজ কোরে বন্দী হোয়েছিলেন সেইপ্রকার কোন কাজ আবার কোরেছিলেন কি না?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: This man was convicted for smuggling of arms. He was externed from certain places and during the war I do not propose to withdraw that order of externment.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: আমি জিজ্ঞাসা কোরেছি যা তা বোধ হয় আপনি বুঝতে পারেন নি; আমি জিজ্ঞাসা কোরেছি মুক্তি পাবার পর—অর্থাৎ After release——

Mr. SPEAKER: You may put your question, but it is no use carrying on a conversation like this.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: Sir, আমি যা জিজ্ঞাসা করি তার জবাব পাই না। কাজেই আমি মনে করি তিনি বুঝতে পারেন না। সভাপতি মহাশয় আপনাকে সসম্মানে জানাচ্ছি হয় এরকম কিছু করা হোক যে যে মন্ত্রী মহাশয়েরা বাংলা জানেন না——

Mr. SPEAKER: Order! Order! I am sorry I cannot allow this. He has already answered your question.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: সভাপতি মহাশয়, আমরা অধিকাংশ সময়েই দেখেছি যে মন্ত্রী মহাশয়দের ভিতর দু'চার জন বাংলা ভাষা সম্পূর্ণ বোঝেন না এবং দু'চার জন এমন আছেন যে বাংলা একেবারেই বোঝেন না। সেই জন্য আপনার কাছ থেকে এমন একটা নির্দ্দেশ চাই—যারা বাংলা বোঝে না তাদের ইংরেজী কোরে বুঝিয়ে দেওয়া উচিত অথবা মন্ত্রী মহাশয়দের উত্তর দেবার দায়িত্বটা আপনার নিজের গ্রহণ করা উচিত।

Mr. SPEAKER: If you want to raise a point of order you can do so; but you cannot argue like this. Will you please put your question?

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: সভাপতি মহাশয়, আপনার নিকট আমি একটা নিবেদন কোরে রাখি। যখনই প্রশ্ন কোরবো আপনার কাছেই প্রশ্ন কোরবো। এবং তার উত্তর আমি পেলাম কি না সেটা আপনারি দেখা কর্ত্তব্য।

Mr. SPEAKER: That is what I say; you ought not to address the Hon'ble Minister directly, but you ought to address the question to me and it is my duty to see whether it is properly answered or not. That is why I was objecting to your carrying on a conversation with him. It is absolutely unparliamentary.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: On a point of order, Sir. May I request the honourable member to translate his own Bengali himself into English for our benefit?

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: আমার প্রশ্ন হচ্ছে এই যে সিরাজুল হক ৫ বছর আন্দামানে বন্দীজীবন যাপন কোরে ১৩৩৬ সালের জুলাই মাসে মুক্তি পান; তারপর তাঁকে যে অভিযোগে দণ্ডিত করা হোয়েছে সেটা কি পূর্ব্বেকার কোন দোষেই তিনি আবার দণ্ডিত হোয়েছেন কি না?

Mr. SPEAKER: How does it arise?

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: তারপরেই তাঁর নিজের জন্মভূমি থেকে পর্য্যন্ত আবার নির্ব্বাসিত হোয়েছেন। সেইজন্যই আমি জিজ্ঞাসা কোরছি—এমন কোন দোষ আবার তিনি কোরেছেন কি না যেজন্য তিনি ঐরূপ নির্ব্বাসিত হোয়েছেন?

Mr. SPEAKER: When was that order passed?

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: 1936.

Mr. SPEAKER: When was he released?

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: 1936.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your supplementary question is not pertinent to this question.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বোলবেন কি মৌলবী সিরাজুল হকের প্রতি কখন দণ্ডাদেশ প্রদান করা হোয়েছে?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, it is already there in the question. I will refer the honourable member to the question itself.

Mr. SPEAKER: Was that order passed in 1931 or in 1936?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: It will be in 1936 after his release.

Mr. SPEAKER: Under the Act?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: We cannot argue about what is under the Act.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: কাজেই আমার প্রশ্ন হোচ্চে—তারপর তিনি আবার কি কোরেছিলেন যার জন্য তাঁর প্রতি দণ্ডাদেশ প্রদান করা হোয়েছে?

Mr. SPEAKER: Was that a judicial order or an executive order?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: That will be an executive order.

Mr. SPEAKER: Now, your proper question will be this: What was the necessity of passing that order in 1936? You are not putting that question at all.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: ১৯৩৬ সনে যখন বর্তমান যুদ্ধের প্রশ্ন একদম ছিলো না তখন তাঁকে কতকগুলি জেলা থেকে নির্বাসিত করবার কি কারণ ছিলো?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: That was a different government, but the policy of that government was that people convicted under the Arms Smuggling Act should be externed from certain places near about Calcutta and Calcutta itself. In pursuance of that policy and according to the law he was externed.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: ১৯০৭ সনে যখন পূর্ববর্ত্তী গভর্ণমেন্টের কাজ বর্ত্তমান গভর্ণমেন্ট গ্রহণ করেন তখন তাঁদের কাছে সিরাজুল হক এই দণ্ডাদেশের বিরুদ্ধে appeal কোরেছিলেন, কিন্তু তখন তিনি মুক্তি পাবার উপযুক্ত বোলে নির্ব্বাচিত হন নি।

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: The answer is there already. I do not want to repeat it.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: How many days or months after the man was released was the order passed?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise. That was in 1936.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: সিরাজুল হক ছাড়াও অন্যান্য যে সমস্ত ব্যক্তি এই প্রকার অপরাধে অপরাধী তাঁরা কি প্রত্যেকেই ২০ বৎসরের জন্য ঐ সমস্ত জেলা থেকে নির্ব্বাসিত হোয়েছেন?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: There are many who have been externed in that fashion.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRABARTY: ২০ বৎসরের জন্যই নির্ব্বাসিত হোয়েছে কিনা তাই আমি জিজ্ঞাসা কোরছি।

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I ask for notice.

DEMAND FOR GRANT.

39—Public Health.

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 47,12,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health". The total provision under this head is Rs. 48,43,000, of which Rs. 1,31,000 is charged upon the provincial revenues and the balance, viz., Rs. 47,12,000, is the subject matter of this demand.

The total expenditure under this head in 1938-39 was Rs. 40,60,000. The expenditure in 1939-40 is estimated in the revised budget at Rs. 41,39,000. The comparative details of increase and decrease may be found explained on pages 109-111 of the Memorandum, i.e., the Red Book.

Sir, Public Health, i.e., the maintenance and improvement of the national health, constitute a vast and complex problem. This problem does not appertain to and cannot be solved by my department alone. The entire structure of Government is intimately connected with the reorganisation and reform of national health. Developments in the Public Health services are seldom dramatic in their coming. It must be the more so in a province like Bengal where the science of preventive medicine has neither developed sufficiently nor is adequately appreciated. The programme of Public Health work and the lines of advance must, therefore, be cautiously settled, so that the various outstanding problems may be attacked in an organised manner, and material reforms effected without waste of effort and within the compass of available finances.

The problem of water-supply in spite of all that has been done, continues to be grave It is by far the most important of environmental health services As the House is aware, considerably increased grants have been made since the present Ministry assumed office. The Government of India have also come to our help with what is commonly called grants for rural uplift. The policy of Government in regard to the distribution and utilisation of provincial grants has also been revised. Local Water-supply Committees at the headquarters of districts, subdivisions and thanas in which local members of both Houses are associated, have been set up, charged with the duty among others of equitable selection of sites for the works, so that there may be no overlapping and waste and the really needy areas may not be overlooked

This problem of rural water-supply can only be tackled by a comprehensive programme. I am glad to inform the House that the preparation of such a programme, district by district, is under progress through the agency of the experts of the district boards and with their full and whole-hearted co-operation and in consultation with the local water-supply committee. One or two districts have already completed and forwarded their programmes to Government for examination. As soon as all the programmes are received they will be examined by the experts of the Public Health Department and all outstanding points in regard to the execution of the projects, inclusive of allocation of financial responsibility, settled as quickly as possible. The Ministry are determined to tackle the problem effectively by working out to the full the comprehensive programme for the province within a very limited period, say, of 3 to 5 years. A provision of Rs. 7,50,000 has been made this year in spite of financial stringency.

In the beginning, organisation of Public Health must be chiefly directed towards improvement of environmental condition and personal health services by control of preventible diseases.

Sir, malaria constitutes the gravest menace to the public health of Bengal. It is a difficult and complex problem. Government have revised the policy of anti-malarial grants, under which large grants are proposed to be made available for expenditure on more or less comprehensive anti-malarial projects, such as, flushing schemes, irrigation schemes, anti-larval measures and the like. Several such schemes have been prepared by the district boards and are still under various stages of examination. Some of them have nearly matured. In order to assist in the preparation and execution of anti-malarial schemes of an engineering type, a malaria engineer with practical experience of anti-malarial work has already been selected and appointed for a period of two years. Steps are also being taken to select an engineer who is a native of Bengal and give him necessary training in anti-malarial work in India and abroad in order that he may be fitted to take up the permanent appointment. I consider it unfortunate that the grant for these larger anti-malarial schemes could not be spent during the current year, but I hope, Sir, that it will be realised that very close examination from various aspects is necessary before these schemes can be made ready for execution.

Now that an anti-malarial engineer has been appointed, it is expected that the provision of Rs. 2,40,000 made in the current year's budget for these schemes, will be fully utilised.

I may be permitted, Sir, to make a reference to the Jessore Anti-malarial Scheme which is fraught with great possibilities. The scheme is on a five-year plan, and is intended to demonstrate the results of an intensive anti-malarial campaign in a malarious town and its surrounding rural areas. The Government of India through the Indian Research Fund Association have contributed Rs. 1 lakh spread over 5 years; and an equal amount will be contributed by the Provincial Government. The work has started during the current year and necessary provision of Rs. 20,000 for the next year has been made in this budget.

The grant for free distribution of quinine has been increased by Rs. 1,00,000 to Rs. 5,00,000. The policy of distribution has been revised and a part of the grant has been set apart for distribution through popular agencies, recognised associations and individuals so that the large class of sufferers who do not come near the hospitals may be adequately reached. It is hoped that the liberal grant will encourage the local bodies to increase their expenditure on quininisation.

Another rapidly growing menace which is making inroads into public health of the people is tuberculosis. As the House is aware, a comprehensive anti-tuberculosis scheme has been prepared and two

items of the scheme, viz., training of medical and health officers in modern methods of diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis and additional grant towards better treatment and nutrition of tuberculosis patients admitted to district hospials have already been given effect to. Further progress of the scheme is awaiting decision, as regards the utilisation of the provincial share of the King-Emperor's Anti-tuberculosis Fund. Tuberculosis survey of typical areas is proceeding and the results will be of great value in giving effect to the scheme. The usual grant Rs. 10,000 is being made to the Bengal Tuberculosis Association, which is doing excellent work, both in respect of propaganda and in maintaining and aiding tuberculosis clinics.

Another serious problem is that of leprosy. The number of incidence of this scourge is high in many districts of Bengal. As the House is aware, a comprehensive anti-leprosy scheme has already been prepared. All local bodies were addressed by the Director of Public Health to participate in the scheme Settlement of details with the district boards and other local authorities has taken time and it is expected to utilise only partially the lump provision made for initiating the scheme. Other schemes are under various stages of examination, and the balance of the grant of Rs 30,000 has been repeated in this budget.

Sir, I have good progress to report as regards the development of maternity and child welfare services. The problem of maternal and infantile mortality is serious and its solution lies in the spread of a net-work of maternity and child welfare clinics, inclusive of home visiting. The House is aware that a lump grant of Rs. 50,000 was made for liberal grants-in-aid towards establishment and maintenance of maternity and child welfare centres and clinics, inclusive of maternity wards where possible. An appreciable response has been received from local bodies and associations and the response is increasing. A part of the grant has already been spent and a large number of schemes is under examination, so that it is expected to sanction further grants before the end of the year. The provision has been repeated in next year's budget. Provision for grants has also been made towards voluntary associations which are doing excellent work, viz., Ram Krishna Sisu Mangal Pratisthan and Ram Krishna Medical Education Society.

The comprehensive scheme framed by this department for control of Public Health, co-ordinating curative and preventive measures is still under scrutiny by Government. Under this scheme a well-defined and manageable unit with a treatment centre between 2 unions will be placed under the charge of a medical officer of health with health assistants and other staff for affording medical relief as well as carrying out public health work in all spheres on approved lines. It is a very

large scheme and even with the local bodies the district boards and union boards participating Government would be committed to a recurring outlay of many lakhs of rupees. Other practical difficulties must also be smoothed before the scheme can take final shape. A provision of Rs. 1,50,000 has been made for partially initiating the scheme. In the meanwhile, a scheme of Public Health organisation for the Chittagong Hill Tracts has been adopted and provision made for charged and voted expenditure for working the scheme.

The School Hygiene work has been taken over by this department. A moderate scheme for this health service, which is so essential towards healthy and productive citizenship of the future, has been worked out and provided for. Much remains to be done, but a beginning compatible with our financial resources has been made and further developments will follow.

Sir, Government are naturally not happy at the comparatively slow progress made; and I appreciate the natural anxiety of the House that Public Health reforms should materialise as quickly as possible. But it will be realised that programmes and policies, especially in the new field of preventive medicine, require long and close consideration from various aspects before they can be adopted to the best advantage of the people. The Ministry are determined to tackle the outstanding problems of Public Health effectively; and I am confident that the members of the Legislature and the people of Bengal will lend their help and co-operation in working out the programme that the Ministry has set before it, considering the common aim, viz., the diminution of human pain, suffering and disablement. In this spirit of mutual trust and support, controversies will be adjusted, local jealousies will disappear and the problems of Public Health will be assailed effectively and without waste of effort.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 47,12,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, I naturally wish very much that the provision under the head "Public Health" should correspond to anything like the requirements of the province. But looking at the explanatory programme set out at page 109 of the Red Book, I find that the provision leads one to expect that Government is going to tell the House that tuberculosis has been checked and, therefore, there is no necessity for utilising the provision of Rs. 33,000 in the previous year and only a sum of Rs. 14,140 is necessary, because tuberculosis did not require any further survey.

Next Government would tell us that leprosy has been controlled in Bengal already and, therefore, there was no necessity of spending more

than Rs. 30,000 out of the grant of Rs. 50,000 provided last year. I expected that the Hon'ble Minister would further tell the House that the villages of Bengal had become the picture and example of health and hence no more than Rs. 6,000 out of the provision of Rs. 30,000 was required to be spent on model health units. I further expected that the Minister would tell us that the grants to the union board dispensaries were no longer needed and they could safely be reduced by 50 per cent. as has been done in this case. The explanatory note further shows that the problem of rural sanitation or the crying need for drinking water of the villagers is now a thing of the past, and that is why the provision of Rs. 50,000 could not be utilised last year and this year a reduced provision of Rs. 30,000 was only called for. It further appears that the grants of rural sanitation had also to be decreased. The water-supply grant has been reduced from Rs. 2,81,000 to Rs. 1,40,000, i.e., a reduction of about Rs. 1,50,000. I also expected that the Hon'ble Minister was going to tell the House that malaria has nearly been eradicated from this province and hence this year the demand is Rs. 60,000 less than the previous year.

But though the Hon'ble Minister did not spring this agreeable surprise he has not altogether disappointed me. He has caused a little surprise and bewilderment by stating yesterday and also repeating to-day that Bengal is full of distress, suffering and sorrow caused by disease, filth and dirt. The epidemics work cruel havoc among the population and thousands upon thousands of people fall victims to untimely death or are invalided for life. These preventible diseases can surely be stamped out by a severe campaign and an organised "Drive".

He again stated at page 2: "It is common knowledge that there are seasons when cholera stalks the land from end to end and small-pox exacts its cruel toll. Malaria has been the curse of the province. There are numerous villages and areas, specially in East Bengal, on the dying or dead Nadia rivers, which have become practically deserted through the ravages of this foul disease. Tuberculosis has, of late, been a growing menace and has constituted a baffling problem. Kala-azar is, also, no less serious. Leprosy is another growing danger which has seriously affected several districts of Bengal." What is the wonder of wonders to me is that, having stated these facts, how the Hon'ble Minister can justify the reduction in the grants in all those items in the present budget—this is what I should like to know from the Hon'ble Minister. On this matter, Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have got a brochure of the Director of Public Health, Lt.-Col. A. C. Chatterjee, who knows the realities of the situation and considers it certainly worth while to spend a few crores of rupees to prevent the huge toll of lives and money in this province; his brochure pleads for a vision

and a determined will on the part of Government to do their duty. It appears that the Hon'ble Minister has borrowed the ideas from the heads of the department, but when it came to the question of the execution, when it came to the question of planning action, he has made a miserable provision of a reduced grant under each head which calls for more and more of attention. Now, I want and I shall expect that the Hon'ble Minister should explain what clearly shows a lack of vision and a want of determination to grapple with the problem because this lean and insufficient and inadequate provision can only be attributed to their callous indifference to the crying needs of the suffering humanity of the province of Bengal,—I was going to say the criminal neglect of preventing the mortality, the rapid death towards which the population of Bengal is advancing. Now, he has, I suppose, been conscious of this fact. He has said our wants are many and our resources are feeble. But it is worthy of note that funds always lack when it is a question of improving the condition of the hapless masses, there is no fund to prevent malaria, no fund to check tuberculosis, there is no fund to provide drinking water, no fund to create healthier villages, but, Sir, when it comes to the question of providing a Special Branch of Police to curtail civil liberties, when it is a question of employing a network of spies to dog the steps of our young men, when it is a question of dogging and watching the movements of the national workers and peasants and labourers of the country or when it is a question of spending on bricks and mortars to provide more comforts to the better situated officers or when it is to make nice buildings to commemorate the name of some big men, then, Sir, funds seem to crop up from nowhere. But when it is a question of providing funds for nation-building purposes always there is paucity of funds. The Hon'ble Minister has also referred to endowments by people in other countries. It ill-befits him to refer to this matter. We all know that there is an endowment or an offer of Rs. 3 lakhs to the Government for the last few years and still Government has failed even to utilise this very generous donation offered, and, therefore, what is the good of speaking about endowments and other things? We know that the last time when my esteemed colleague Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri demonstrated how inadequate this provision was, what a low percentage it bore to the total population, the then Hon'ble Minister in charge of Public Health put forward this plea about schemes, schemes and schemes —schemes under consideration, and schemes nearing completion. I wonder when those schemes—schemes to prevent diseases which every-day visit the hapless inhabitants of this province, when, I ask, those schemes will be matured. If they go on scheming and planning while men go on dying, Government will have to scheme for bigger grave-yards and bigger cremation grounds and I suppose the malarial engineers who cannot now find work will be employed at least to find more spacious burial grounds when the diseased bodies after the tortured soul

leaves the frame, will at least find a rest which they never found when they were in life. The Hon'ble Minisiter has invited us to a conference. What will a conference lead to if only we are to have some discussions and fine speeches and good shibboleths? What is needed, therefore, is a planned action, a planned programme. A conference may give suggestions where there may be defects. But without any actual practical planning, conference and speeches will not help the dying masses of Bengal. I submit, Sir, that the situation is so serious that unless we want to shut our eyes, unless we want to keep ourselves away from the suffering masses of this province, we cannot afford to brook even a day's delay in doing whatever is possible in this direction. Public health schemes may be evolved, but action must begin, for if action is deferred till all schemes are examined, re-examined and rejected, and restarted, Bengal will never make any progress in that direction. Sir, this is an unhealthy province and it is the primary duty of Government to make this province fit for life, fit for the activities of the poor masses in this country. In conclusion I shall appeal to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Public Health not to delay action a day longer than he can help. If he does so I dare say that the peace of his mind will be haunted by the tortured souls of those who are dying and leaving their mortal frames behind every day in this province.

Mr. SPEAKER: The procedure I propose to follow is this. I will take three cut motions and have them moved. After that, all sides of the House will have an opportunity to participate in the debate. At present I am confronted with a formidable list of speakers given to me by the Whip of the Coalition Party. This really creates discontent in everybody. Nobody gets full time. I shall not be able to give full time to anybody. So, I shall either have to curtail the time or have to curtail the number of speakers. After all, we have not much time. There will be time only for two cut motions before prayer. After that, we have barely an hour, at the end of which the Nawab Saheb will have to reply.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: May I suggest for the favourable consideration of the Whip of the Government Party if so many members of the Coalition Party are anxious to acquaint the Minister with their views, he may, instead of depriving the Opposition benches from doing their duty, call an extra party meeting where the Coalition Party members can acquaint the Minister with what they have got to say?

Mr. SPEAKER: There I do not agree. I find often-times that so far as the budget speeches are concerned, there is hardly any difference between the right and the left.

Maulvi MD. MOZAMMEL HUQ: Mr. Speaker, Coalition Party র মেম্বাররা মন্ত্রী মহোদয়গণকে প্রশংসাও করে এবং প্রয়োজন হইলে criticise করিতেও ছাড়ে না। কিন্তু আমার বন্ধু Mr. J. C. Gupta এবং তাঁহার দলের লোকেরা গত তিন বৎসর যাবৎ মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর উপর কেবলই দোষারোপ করিয়া আসিতেছেন। এতদ্বারা প্রমাণিত হয় যে মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর উপর তাঁহাদের জাতক্রোধ আছে।

Mr. SPEAKER: Maulvi Saheb, you are not the Whip!

Mr. MD. ABUL FAZL: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 47,12,000 under head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100.

To ensure good sanitation of the province, various problems have to be tackled, such as malaria, tuberculosis, kala-azar, maternal and infant mortality and last though not the least the problem of water-supply but the Government have totally failed to take any effective measure in this direction.

From the statement supplied by the Hon'ble Minister in charge of this Department, it will appear that he has again given us assurances and reassurance of tackling these problems and various schemes have been under consideration of Government to combat these evils.

Taking first the problem of malaria, the then Hon'ble Minister-in-charge in moving the demand for grant in 1937 said "I attach the greatest importance to public health work especially on two matters, viz., malaria and water-supply", and he gave assurances of schemes of prevention of malaria saying that as he has not exactly responsible for the framing of that year's budget no comprehensive scheme could be prepared.

Then in 1938, the Hon'ble Minister said while moving the grant, "In my humble opinion, Sir, the people of Bengal have got only to choose between two alternatives. They should either drive out malaria from Bengal or they must agree to be driven to the other world by malaria. These are the two alternatives and it lies with the people of Bengal to co-operate with Government in their efforts to control the terrible scourge of malaria so that Bengal may live happily and in a prosperous way".

In 1938, the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin, while moving the demand under this head for the year, laid greater stress on the necessity of stamping out malaria in these words: "Malaria is the gravest menace to the health of our people not only because of its high mortality but because of its devitalizing effect on the sufferers" and he continued that several schemes submitted by district boards in this respect were under various stages of examination by Government and added "The House is aware that a comprehensive malaria survey is in progress and valuable data will be available for preparation of anti-malarial schemes when the survey is completed". And now the Hon'ble Minister says

in his statement that "the policy of Government has now been revised and it is proposed to give liberal grants-in-aid to anti-malarial schemes of a more or less permanent nature instead of making small grants towards temporary local measures".

The crux of the problem has been hinted at in the statement to create in the people of the province "what may be described as the 'Health Sense' or the 'Sanitation Sense' for after all education and the habits of the people have a great deal to do with the problem of public health". But may I ask what Government have done during the course of these long three years for creating "Health Sense" or the "Sanitation Sense" in the province?

I do not believe in propaganda work by the present staff under the control of Government for this purpose. Their heart is not in their work. When Mr. A. E. Porter was the Collector of Faridpur a few years back, I found him frequently going with his officers to clear jungles with his own hands. The example was such as to infuse into the public mind a sense of their duty towards themselves and to the people in this respect. If such propaganda is carried on by the departmental officers, public men and men in authority who have the true interest of the country in their hearts with a set purpose of clearing jungles, water-hyacinth, refuse matters, etc., and if they bring these things to proper use in the form of manure, fuel, etc., and if these efforts are supplemented by Government grants when necessary, then and then only the problem of malaria and of sanitation in general can be effectively tackled. No amount of scheming will do, and I do not think that the people of Bengal will be deceived by assurances of preparation of schemes.

Then about the fell disease tuberculosis, the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Public Health said in 1938 while moving his demand:

"So far as tuberculosis is concerned, in my opinion some of the main causes are bad housing, mal-nutrition, prolonged sickness from malaria and other diseases and disregard of rule of personal hygiene. The first thing to my mind to be tackled is bad housing, and in this connection my attention was drawn to a distressing fact only the other day when I had to go out on inspection in the town of Calcutta to some of the improvement works undertaken by the Improvement Trust. It appeared to me that these improvement works have been undertaken without any regard for the housing arrangements of the poor people who are going to be driven out of the town. This is a very serious problem, and this came to me like a shock when I compared that with what I found in other parts of India."

Now, may I ask what steps have been taken by Government with regard to housing arrangements for the poor people of Calcutta during

these three years? Government seek to counteract the disease when it is contracted instead of taking steps beforehand to prevent it.

As regards water-supply, the importance of this has been stressed all these years by the Hon'ble Minister and assurance of schemes has been given by them without actually trying to solve the problem in rural areas. The people are suffering from want of good drinking water. Small grants that are allotted by Government for this purpose are, of course, meant for sinking of tube-wells, but these tube-wells are sunk in places where they cannot give actual relief. These tube-wells which are sanctioned by Government are generally sunk near the outhouses of the presidents and members of unions boards and members of the local board or district board or their relatives. The people who are actually in need of drinking water have always been neglected.

Kala-azar, malaria, leprosy and maternal and infantile diseases have also not been tackled properly. If the Hon'ble Minister will kindly go to the interior of villages, these facts would become clear to him. The people must be made to feel that they have got something during this period of 3 years.

I think the Hon'ble Minister is suffering from lack of imagination, as has been stressed by my friend, Mr. Ahmed Ali Mridha, from the other side of the House. The Hon'ble Minister will, I hope, find time to go to the villages and look to the condition of the people with his own eyes and not simply depend on the officers of the department who, I believe, only draw their pay without doing anything of real benefit to the people of the province. Sir, with these words, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 47,12,000 under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, though inadequate and unsatisfactory, grants and allotments, singly and separately considered, are certainly good and laudable, but what I want to complain of is this: if we compare the items of allotment this year and the allotments of the two previous years, we find that with the exception of a few items there is a conspicuous absence of link and system in them. This, Sir, is due to the absence of any well-developed, well-defined and well-thought-out schemes and plans.

Sir, during these three years whenever the Hon'ble Ministers rose to present their demands they told us a very sad tale, namely, "that certain schemes are under consideration, and the district boards have sent them several schemes and they have not been able to examine them yet" and they showered promises like anything but never meant to be fulfilled. This has been our melancholy experience for the last two years.

If we scrutinise the statement in the Red Book we find that the figures in the allotment are purposely inflated every year with the deliberate intention not to spend them. I must tell the House at once that this is done only to satisfy—to placate—the public who do not really go into the details of the working and who do not compare the actuals with the budgeted expenditure and also to satisfy the members here. This is a kind of jugglery which we cannot praise. What do we see? We see that in the departments which are really nation-building departments, namely, Irrigation, Education, Public Health and Medical, every year there are grants which remain unspent.

Then, Sir, in scrutinising the heads of expenditure under General Administration I find in the Red Book at page 83 a decrease of Rs. 1,48,000 under "Other establishment" due mainly to the non-utilisation in full of the provision for Reorganisation of the Rural Reconstruction Department. We do not find any item in the general expenditure remaining unspent, but where the allotment is far the reorganisation of the Rural Reconstruction we find a huge sum of Rs. 1,48,000 remaining unspent. Then, Sir, we find that decrease is under certain specific grants of heads. So those items which are really items of nation-building, which are for the health, happiness and prosperity of the people, are always kept unspent.

Now, if we examine the items under Public Health purposes we see, Sir, that large sums of money remain unspent. We granted Rs. 33,300 for Tuberculosis Survey, but we spent only Rs. 14,140. For control of leprosy we sanctioned Rs. 50,000, but we were able to spend only Rs. 30,000. We allotted last year Rs. 65,763 for Rajshahi Water-supply, but we do not find any mention of that in the revised column. We sanctioned Rs. 17,000 odd for Munshiganj Waterworks Improvements, but it is absent from the revised column. We sanctioned Rs. 75,000 for Tollygunge Protective Embankment, but there is no mention of that in the revised column. It remained unspent. For Navadwip Drainage Scheme we sanctioned Rs. 41,667, but it was not spent. But I find one item that has been spent very nicely and that is the rural public health units. This is a very vague item. I do not know what they mean by rural public health units. We sanctioned about Rs. 11 lakhs and we spent Rs. 11 lakhs. We have again sanctioned this year Rs. 11 lakhs. Sir, I do not know if this has anything to do with rural public health. I am tempted to say that this is a sum for the health and welfare of the Ministry. Therefore it was spent fully. We hope the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge will explain how this huge sum was spent.

Then we see that we sanctioned Rs. 50,000 for Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, but only Rs. 15,000 has been spent. Now, this year we find that we have reduced the grant for improvement of rural water-supply. Last year we spent about Rs. 2,81,000. This year we have

sanctioned Rs. 1,40,000. Does it mean that we have fully satisfied the demand of rural water-supply and, therefore, we have reduced the grant this year?

Sir, Public Health Department is a department, the motto of which should be "Prevention is better than cure". We should remember that motto and work out schemes and make allotments and grants. The nature of the expenditure will substantiate my contention that the Ministers were simply placating the public and members here by purposely inflating the figures of expenditure in those departments and then deliberately withholding the expenditure. Sir, what is the percentage of grant allotted in this department including the honorarium, pay, salary, contingencies and the contribution of pay to the Health Officers and Sanitary Inspectors? We have allotted only 3·4 per cent. of the total revenue receipts. Sir, though this year the expected revenue receipts is below the actual revenue receipts of the last year, but still we have increased the expenditure by 37 lakhs. The percentage that we spent last year for General Administration, Administration of Justice, Police, Jail and Convict Settlements has been increased by 3 per cent., but the percentage of expenditure under head "Nation-building Departments" has been increased by only one per cent., but that again, Sir, will not be spent. This is how the important departments are taken care of by the popular Ministers.

Sir, the Ministers last night came with an excuse and that excuse is a lame excuse which cannot stand or walk. He was telling us that he only recently took charge of the department. Quite true. He might have taken charge of the department quite recently, but Government were not defunct so long. He only followed his predecessors. So if there was really any scheme left by his predecessor, he could have continued that. So "recently" has no meaning whatsoever. Sir, we know public property sometimes becomes nobody's property. The Public Health Department has become nobody's department. When they spent money on public health units, I must tell the House that they were playing ducks and drakes with the public money and they were not spending for purposes which were really meant for the benefit and happiness of the rural people.

Sir, Government always complain that there is dearth of money. But we have not forgotten, Sir, that Rs. 10 lakhs additional grant was at once provided last year to Police Department and if any kind of movement is started in the country, we know that there will be no dearth of money in the Police Budget for Jail and Convict Settlements. But the plea of dearth of money is always used in case of Public Health Department which is the most essential department. So I implore the present Cabinet to really think over the matter and take up schemes

with earnestness and fulfil them. Sir, three years' time cannot be called insufficient time, but we have not seen really anything substantial done by the Government.

Sir, we have always been hearing that schemes are 'under examination', but I ask, Sir, will this examination continue till Doom's Day or it will see the light of day? Will the schemes materialise at any future time within the two years' life time of this Assembly?

Sir, we are really not encouraged to make any suggestions, because our sad experience is that our suggestions are never accepted.

At this stage the House was adjourned for 20 minutes.

(*After adjournment.*)

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was going to finish, but I was not allowed because the House adjourned. I shall not take more than one minute.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right, not more than one minute.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, I find that mention has been made of two schemes in the Red Book, namely, lump provision for anti-malarial schemes Sir, last year we sanctioned Rs. 2,20,000 which remained unspent. This year we have made provision of Rs. 1,60,000. The second scheme is the Dacca Waterworks Improvement Scheme. We have sanctioned Rs. 1,00,000 this year. May I know from the Hon'ble Minister if these schemes have passed out of examination and are ready for materialisation? If so, we shall be pleased if the Hon'ble Minister will give us some idea of these schemes so that the money provided may not remain unspent and shown in the next year's budget. I suggest, Sir, that a grant for improvement of——

(At this stage the member reached the time-limit.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may finish your sentence.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I suggest, Sir, that the grant for improvement of rural water-supply should be increased. With these words, Sir, I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. SYED BADRUDDUJA: Sir, I hesitated long enough as to whether I could take part in the discussion to-day. I would still prefer to be guided by the superior wisdom and experience of senior members

in this House, but certain observations made by the learned speaker Mr. J. C. Gupta have compelled me to refer to certain points that he has raised in the course of discussion.

Sir, we on this side of the House, though identified with the Government, are not debarred from making honest criticism of the various plans and measures of the Government of Bengal that are brought forward in this House from time to time for examination. We are not here to stultify ourselves. Let us not be misunderstood. We are not going to criticise for the sake of criticism, to indulge in reckless and wanton attacks for the sake of attack. Some of the observations that have been made have certainly been inspired with the best of motives to help Government in the best possible way, while others proceed from a tendency to thwart and obstruct the Government. That is a tendency, Sir, which has got to be discouraged.

Sir, the problem of public health is one of the most serious, complex and sacred problems that confront any civilised government in the world. We are not going to trifle with this problem. As a matter of fact, all sections of the House are agreed that we must find out a real solution of this serious problem which affects the vast millions that knock about the rural areas. But when we consider this question we must try to take a calm and dispassionate view of the whole situation, in all its implications, in all its repercussions upon the province as a whole. We must not rush to any conclusion, we must not jump to any decision. If we take a comprehensive view of the whole problem, we must also take a comprehensive view of the various sources of revenue, of the resources at our disposal. It is always very easy to criticise a particular Minister, with regard to a particular measure of Government. But ill-digested and ill-assimilated schemes or projects may thrive in the cloudland of fancy or imagination. But when they are confronted with stern realities of life, they dissipate in the thin air and do never materialize. Let us adjust the debit side to the credit side. Let us face the problem as it stands. Malaria is a very serious problem. Sir, I hail from a malaria-stricken district myself, and the particular constituency which I represent is one of the most malarial areas in Bengal. Village after village has practically been denuded of people owing to the ravages of malaria, since malaria exacts a heavy toll year in and year out. I personally have bitter experience of a particular district in Bengal, namely, Burdwan, for I myself contracted malaria there about 16 years back and suffered from it for 10 years. It is a problem, Sir, with which the whole destiny of the nation is bound up. The nation must live before it can think of anything else. I realise that this is a serious problem and there are various aspects that have got to be tackled. We have got to closely study it and find a ready solution. The Government of Bengal and especially the Hon'ble

Minister of Public Health has not been very unsympathetic to the aspirations, to the needs and requirements of the people. I notice, Sir, that the grant under this head has been increased during the last 2 or 3 years. Rupees 5 lakhs has been provided for quininisation of the province, and of late there has been a change, a new orientation in the policy of Government. Government have come forward with a revised policy of spending money for permanent projects of a very beneficial character—projects like flushing schemes, irrigation schemes—which will ultimately usher in a happier Bengal, a healthier Bengal, a more prosperous Bengal. I find that there is another aspect of the question which has also been seriously taken into consideration by Government. They have of late appointed a malaria engineer for assisting the local bodies for drawing up anti-malarial schemes; they have really taken up the task in right earnest. They have studied the question in all its aspects and in all its bearings. They have to solve the whole question in all its aspects. The whole position will have to be looked into very carefully. The provision that has already been made in the current year's budget should be properly utilised to the benefit of the province. Sir, I cannot for a single moment persuade myself to believe that this money is sufficient. We all agree that more money is necessary in order to cope with the expanding needs of this province, more money is necessary to eradicate this evil; more money is necessary to solve the problem of ill-health, and sanitation in the countryside. Year in and year out nearly 30 to 40 million cases of malaria occur in the countryside but only 3 millions of cases are treated in the various dispensaries. Sir, 3½ lakhs of people die of malaria. Malaria is a scourge, a visitation. It has got to be seriously tackled, seriously grappled with and eradicated. Members on the opposite side criticised the bigger provision for the Police budget in this connection. I agree with them, Sir, in thinking that everything might wait, even education, primary education might wait, secondary education might wait, agriculture and industries might wait, the activities of other departments might wait, but Public Health cannot. Sir, often in the stillness of night, in the depth of solitude, in the grim silence of the heavens, when anxieties and cares of man are laid at rest and the mind of man is lifted above sordid surroundings and transported not into a region of romance or fancy but into a serene and calm atmosphere of life, I have pondered over the darksome fate of this province and my thought has been drawn to leaders of public opinion in Bengal. All shades of opinion, all schools of political thought must concentrate on this question and should strive hard to check and eradicate this scourge and bring about a more prosperous Bengal, a healthier Bengal, a richer Bengal, in which all classes and communities might combine and contribute all that they could to the peace and prosperity of the common motherland. Sir, I am one of the babes and

sucklings of yesterday, not properly conversant with this subject. I wish I could speak with some amount of authority, but I am afraid I shall not be able to throw any new light on this complex subject.

Sir, there is another problem which is equally acute, namely, the problem of water-supply for which adequate provision has not yet been made. Government should find out if the Finance Department has held up any projects, and if they have not allowed programmes and policies to materialise for lack of funds. Without meaning any disrespect to Government and without criticising the policy of Government, may I know from the Finance Department what did they do during the last three years, and why were they sitting tight over these projects and programmes? If any department is to be held responsible, it is the Finance Department that should be held responsible in this connection. Let the Finance Department, let the Irrigation Department, let the Communications and Works Department, let the various departments of Government co-operate in solving this great problem in the country. On this particular occasion, Sir, I plead that all political animosities should cease, all party considerations should be thrown into the background. Let Hindus, Muslims, Christians and Buddhists—all sections in this House unite in solving this problem.

There is another problem also that calls for equally serious attention and that is the problem of leprosy. Sir, may I warn the members of the Coalition Party that until and unless they bring pressure to bear upon Government, until all parties come forward with a definite programme and show determination and clear vision the great problems of this country will not be solved. With these few words, Sir, I resume my seat.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker called on Rai Jogesh Chandra Sen Bahadur to move his amendment.)

Mr. MONMOHAN DAS: Sir, I rise on a point of order. There is an amendment, Nos. 43-46, standing in the name of Mr. Bramatha Ranjan Thakur and others. The scheduled caste party have not been given any opportunity of moving their motion and I request that I may be allowed to move it at this stage.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already called the Rai Bahadur to move his motion. You may move yours after he has finished.

Rai JOGESH CHANDRA SEN Bahadur: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 47,12,000 under the head "39—Public Health", be reduced by Rs. 100.

Before I discuss the Public Health policy I would, Sir, just refer to the statement issued by the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Public Health

yesterday. It appears from the statement regarding the Public Health that everything is not going on well in the Cabinet and the Hon'ble Minister does not get the necessary amount of co-operation of other Ministers for which he has in a way expressed his disappointment and repeated it several times in his statement. This House never knew that there was such non-co-operation between the Ministers. Really speaking, one Minister cannot go ahead without the co-operation of the other Ministers. Nowhere in his statement, however, the Hon'ble Minister has said that he had several schemes or even one scheme ready in hand which was turned down or shelved by his colleagues—I mean the other Ministers. Under these circumstances we do not know what view to express. But I leave his statement here for the present and I would take up other points now.

Sir, the allotment under this head is Rs. 48,43,000 which, I must say, is miserably inadequate and nothing very tangible can be achieved with this. Is it unknown to any one in this House that death carries away millions of people from this province every year and I am mentioning deaths due to cholera, small-pox, tuberculosis, malaria and typhoid and these, Sir, are preventible diseases, but the predecessors of our Hon'ble Minister never raised their little fingers to save them in the past, so also in the present I am sorry to say. If you have the inner vision, if you are ever in a pensive mood, you can hear the lamentations of the departed souls coming from the land of the dead. You can hear their sobs, you can hear them saying—"Oh ye, oh ye, we hold you responsible for our premature and untimely death. You could have saved us if you had cared for us, if you had taken timely precautions, but you only rolled in wealth and were mad with power. Do atone, therefore, for your past sins and omissions of your predecessors and your own and save those who are now in the land of the living. Hark ye—if you disregarded our warnings you will be visited with chaos, havocs and pestilence that will sweep you all to our fold."

Now let us see, Sir, what is being done now and secondly what should be our public health policy. In vain I hunted out the pages of the budget and the Red Book to find out if money is being spent against any scheme or if there is any policy behind it. When there is no scheme, the best way of distributing the amount in hand is to divide by means of grants-in-aid in charity. This is exactly what has been done—several lakhs of rupees were given to different municipalities for waterworks, sewerage scheme and drainage schemes. The only noticeable allotments are Rs. 7,50,000 for water-supply and Rs. 5,00,000 for quinine. There is, however, some jugglery in this quinine matter. The supply of quinine is received from the Government Cinchona Works and a huge profit is made out of it.

Now, let us see, Sir, what Government has done to combat the preventible diseases, viz., cholera, small-pox, tuberculosis, malaria, etc. No word can be sufficiently strong to condemn this department for utter callousness in this respect. Sir, Rs. 10,000 only will be given to the Tuberculosis Association to combat tuberculosis which is the most dangerous menace in this province and nothing especially for cholera, small-pox, etc. Can you, Sir, conceive of a state of things worse than this in an administration? We request the Hon'ble Minister in all seriousness to rise equal to the occasion and adopt measures to save those who can be saved by the manipulation of human hands. No one in this House will tolerate such indifference and will refuse to see their countrymen dying for want of care and attention. Towns and villages of this province will turn into graveyards and cremation grounds if the situation is not tackled properly or otherwise the Cabinet Members will have to watch over this province as undertakers only. We hope the Hon'ble Minister will start in earnest and set matters right at once. I have not much time to discuss the question in greater details and I would venture to offer some concrete suggestions for consideration of the Cabinet. Unlike some other departments the chief officer of this department, Col. A. C. Chatterji, is a man full of energy and a brilliant officer, at least I knew him to be such when I was Chairman of a district board. He can be asked to formulate schemes forthwith.

My suggestions are—

(1) To frame comprehensive 5-year and 10-year schemes to combat malaria, tuberculosis, small-pox, cholera, etc.

(2) To amend the Vaccination Act and make revaccination compulsory.

(3) To pass a comprehensive Public Health Bill, covering all points relating to public health.

(4) To arrange periodical inspection of all holdings in order to see if those are being kept in sanitary condition.

(5) To arrange for extensive health propaganda throughout the province in order to rouse the sanitary consciousness of the ignorant mass by means of health exhibition, cinema, lectures, 'lantern' lectures, *jatra*, *kathakata*, story-telling.

(6) To start Maternity Centres in all parts of the districts with arrangement to impart *Dai* training to the women folks of '*grihasta*' families to check infant mortality.

(7) To publish widely throughout the province, at least twice a year, the important health laws and instruction through posters, pamphlets and by fixing the same in railway train, steamer, tram, bus, stations and also through cinema-houses to educate the mass and classes.

(8) To start model villages in every union with a 3-year scheme and place the same under local organisation.

(9) To solve the problem of water-supply by giving contribution and advancing loan to the local bodies at a very small rate of interest.

(10) To encourage all sorts of outdoor games, *lathi* plays, gymnasium and make drill compulsory in schools and colleges to improve the health of the students.

(11) As health and wealth go together, arrangements should be made to solve the economic problem along with it.

(12) If real improvement is needed, let Government play the role of a parent of a big family.

I have briefly stated my 12 points which are like 12 commandments to me and I appeal to the Cabinet not to waste a moment and take up this problem seriously in hand. Beware of chaos, and beware of pestilence.

With these words I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Babu LAKSHMI NARAYAN BISWAS: I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 47,12,000 under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100

সভাপতি মহোদয়, পল্লির জল সরবরাহ বিষয়ে দুই একটি কথা বলব। প্রকৃতপক্ষে পল্লিতে পানীয় জলের কি অভাব যে সমস্ত হৃদয়বান লোক পল্লির সহিত সম্বন্ধ রাখেন তাঁহারাই অবগত আছেন বা বুঝিতেছেন জনসাধারণ পানীয় জলের অভাবে কি অবস্থায় জীবনযাত্রা নির্বাহ করেন।

সাধারণতঃ দেখা যায় কৃষি ও মজুর ক্লাসের লোক লইয়া পল্লি গঠিত। আজকালকার সময়ে সমৃদ্ধিশালী ও ধনী লোক পল্লির হইলেও তাঁহারা পাড়াগ্রামে প্রায় বাস করেন না। তাঁহারা পাড়াগ্রামে বাস করিলে গ্রামবাসীদের জল সরবরাহের অনেক কিছু করিতে পারেন। কিন্তু গ্রামে না থাকার দরুণ ঐ সব গ্রামবাসী সাধারণতঃ কৃষি মজুরদের পানীয় জলের জন্য হা-হুতাশের মধ্যে কালাতিপাত করিতে হয়। তাহাদের রোদন শুনিবার একটা লোক খুঁজিয়া পাওয়া যায় না।

গভর্ণমেন্টের যত রকম কর্ম্মের আড়ম্বরই হউক না কেন, তাহা ঐ সব পল্লির কৃষক মজুর ক্লাসের অক্লান্ত পরিশ্রমের কল্যাণে। তারা কিছু সময় হাত-পা গুটাইয়া বসিলেই গভর্ণমেন্ট সম্পূর্ণ অচল হইয়া পড়ে। এমন যে দরদের জিনিষ তাহার উপর গভর্ণমেন্টের উপযোগী বিধান নাই বলিলে অত্যুক্তি হয় না।

তাহাদের উপর কার্য্যকলাপ যেরূপ দেখা যাইতেছে তাহাতে মনে হয় আমাদের মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর ভাল লক্ষ্য নাই। মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী কতিপয় মেম্বারের মনস্তুষ্টির জন্য পল্লির কৃষক মজুর জনসাধারণের লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকার ছিনিমিনি খেলিতেছেন, অথচ পল্লিবাসীদের অন্যান্য কাজ দূরের কথা প্রাণ-স্বরূপ উপযোগী জলের জল ব্যবস্থা করেন নাই। যে জলের নাম জীবন সেই জীবনের জন্য সারা বাংলায় normal ২,৫০,০০০৲ এবং additional grant ৫,০০,০০০৲ টাকার বরাদ্দ করিয়াছেন। এ টাকাটা সারা বাংলার জল সরবরাহের পক্ষে যথেষ্ট নয়।

বর্ত্তমান গভর্ণমেন্টের আইনের আমলে জনসাধারণ বিশেষতঃ কৃষক মজুর ক্লাস কিপ্রকার কষ্টে কালাতিপাত করিতেছে তাহা ৩ বৎসর ধরিয়া এই সভার হৃদয়বান অনেক সদস্যই বিবৃতি দিয়া আসিতেছেন; সুতরাং আমার আর বেশী বলিবার নাই।

পল্লির জনসাধারণ গভর্ণমেন্টের আইন কানুনের চাপে প্রায় অর্দ্ধমৃত অবস্থায় আছে; তাহার উপর যদি উপযোগী জল সরবরাহের ব্যবস্থা না হয় তবে অল্প দিনের মধ্যেই তাহাদিগকে অকর্ম্মণ্য হইতে হইবে।

যে পল্লির জনসাধারণ গভর্ণমেন্টের মেরুদণ্ড, যে পল্লির জনসাধারণ দেশের গৌরব, যে পল্লির জনসাধারণ শান্তি ও যে পল্লির জনসাধারণ দেশের একমাত্র অন্নসংস্থানের উপায়, সেই পল্লি-বাসীদের হিতার্থে অন্যান্য কাজকর্ম্ম দূরের কথা, উপযোগী পানীয় জলের ব্যবস্থা হইতেছে না।

যাহা কিছু সামান্য টাকার বরাদ্দ আছে তাহা আমরা মফঃস্বলে বাস করিয়া দেখিতেছি আবশ্যক স্থান বাদ দিয়া অনাবশ্যক স্থানে ব্যবস্থা হইয়া থাকে। জেলা ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট এবিষয়ে আদৌ লক্ষ্য রাখেন না।

পল্লির সাধারণ লোক পানীয় জলের অভাবে পচা বিল, খাল, ডোবা প্রভৃতির জল ব্যবহারে নানা-প্রকার সংক্রামক ব্যাধির কবলে পড়িতেছে। অতএব আমার বক্তব্য গভর্ণমেন্ট অন্যান্য বিভাগের খরচ কমাইয়া প্রতি পল্লির জনসাধারণের উপযোগী জলের ব্যবস্থা করিয়া জনসাধারণের হিতার্থে কিছু কর্ত্তব্য সাধন করুন। এই কয়েকটি কথা বলিয়া আমার বক্তৃতা শেষ করিলাম।

Khan Sahib Maulvi AMINULLAH: স্পীকার মহোদয়, আমি এবারকার সাধারণ স্বাস্থ্যরক্ষার বাজেট সম্বন্ধে ২।৪টি কথা বলতে দাঁড়াইয়াছি।

এবারকার সাধারণ স্বাস্থ্যরক্ষার বাজেট যেরূপভাবে রচিত হইয়াছে তাহাতে ভুল যে মোটেই নাই তাহা স্বীকার করা যায় না, তবে উহা যে একেবারেই দেশের উপযোগী ও উপকারী হয় নাই তাহাও নহে। দোষ-ত্রুটি মিলিত যে বাজেট রচিত হইয়াছে উহা সম্বন্ধে আমি বিশেষ আড়ম্বর না করিয়া শুধু এটুকু বলি যে এই বিরাট বাংলাদেশে প্রায় পাঁচ কোটি লোকের বাস, তাঁহারা শতকরা ৯৫ জন গ্রামবাসী। তাঁহারা সাধারণতঃ গ্রামের union board ডাক্তারখানা যোগে চিকিৎসা করেন। দুঃখের বিষয় এই যে মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় তাঁহাদের স্বাস্থ্যরক্ষার জন্য মাত্র ২,০০০ হাজার টাকা বরাদ্দ করার ব্যবস্থা করিয়াছেন, আর মুষ্টিমেয় সহরবাসীদের জন্য লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা খরচ করার ব্যবস্থা করিয়াছেন। এইজন্য এই বাজেট নিন্দনীয়। আমার মনে হয় বাংলা সরকার এইরূপ বিচার করিলে বেশী দিন সুনাম রক্ষা করিয়া থাকিতে পারিবেন না। আমি আশা করি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় union board ডাক্তারখানা-গুলিতে উপযুক্ত সাহায্য করিয়া দরিদ্র পল্লিবাসীদিগকে বাঁচাইয়া রাখার ব্যবস্থা করিবেন।

Sir, বাজেটে দেখা যায় যে মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় free quinine বিতরণের জন্য ৫ লক্ষ টাকা খরচ করার ব্যবস্থা করিয়াছেন। আমার মনে হয় এই টাকাগুলির সদ্ব্যবহার হইতেছে না। আমি আশা করি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় এই টাকাগুলির দ্বারা union board dispensary র সংখ্যা বাড়াইয়া দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা করিবেন। তাহাতে দেশের উপকার হইবে।

Sir, মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় গ্রামদেশের ম্যালেরিয়া নিবারণের জন্য ও পানীয় জলের জন্য যে টাকা বরাদ্দ করার ব্যবস্থা করিয়াছেন আমি তাহাতে তাঁহাকে ধন্যবাদ দিতেছি। কিন্তু টাকাগুলি খরচ করার যে পদ্ধতি অবলম্বন করিয়াছেন আমি তাহাতে একমত হইতে পারিলাম না। আমার মনে হয় যখন টাকাটা একই উদ্দেশ্যে খরচ হইবে এক হাতে খরচ করা আবশ্যক। আমি আশা করি টাকাটা বাংলা সরকার বিভাগীয় উচ্চ কর্ম্মচারীর-যোগে খরচ করার ব্যবস্থা করিবেন। তাহাতে কাজ সর্ব্বাঙ্গীন সুন্দর হইবে।

এই প্রসঙ্গে আর একটা কথা বলার বিশেষ প্রয়োজন মনে করি। আমার মনে হয় এই দেশে মুসলমান বলিয়া যে কোন সমাজ আছে তাহা মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী মনে করেন না। তাহা হইলে মুসলমান-চালিত প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলি তাঁহাদের করুণা হইতে বঞ্চিত হইত না। বাজেটে দেখা যায় মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় ভিক্টোরিয়া প্রতিষ্ঠানকে ২ লক্ষ ৬৫ হাজার টাকা, S. K. প্রতিষ্ঠানকে ২০,০০০৲ টাকা ও রামকৃষ্ণ শিশু-মঙ্গল প্রতিষ্ঠানকে ৪০,০০০৲ টাকা সাহায্য করিয়াছেন। আমি মনে করিয়াছিলাম যে মোছলেম-প্রচলিত প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলি মাননীয় মন্ত্রি মণ্ডলীর সুনজর হইতে বাদ পড়িবে না।

এইজন্য বাজেটের কেতাব বহুবার পাঠ করিয়াছিলাম, কিন্তু কোথাও, যথা মধ্যম কলিকাতা মুরহুম মহম্মদ আলী হাসপাতাল বা এছলামিয়া হাসপাতালে এক টাকাও দিয়াছেন বলিয়া মনে হয় না। ইহা অত্যন্ত পরিতাপের বিষয়। আমি মনে করি মন্ত্রি মণ্ডলী মুসলমান প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলির প্রতি অবিচার করিতেছেন। আমি আশা করি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় উপরোক্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলিতে উপযুক্ত সাহায্য করিবেন। এই বিরাট মুসলমান সমাজকে আর ঠকাইবেন না। এইজন্য আমি বাংলা সরকারকে পূর্বেই সতর্ক করা উচিত মনে করি।

আমি বাংলা সরকারের গত কয়েক বৎসরের বাজেট সমালোচনা করিয়া যাহা অভিজ্ঞতা অর্জ্জন করিয়াছি উহা সম্বন্ধে বৃথা আড়ম্বর না করিয়া শুধু পুরাতন সময়ের মহাকবির একটি পদ্য পাঠ করিয়া বসিতেছি—

পারশী কবিতা—

تهیدستان قسمت را چه سود از رهبر کامل

که خضر از آب حیوان تشنه می آرد سکندر را

অর্থাৎ মুসলমানদের উপযুক্ত মুরুব্বি আছে বটে এবং এই মন্ত্রী-সভাকে মুসলমান মন্ত্রী-সভা বলা হয় সত্য, কিন্তু মুসলমানের ভাগ্য যেই তিমিরে সেই তিমিরে থাকিবে।

Mr. SPEAKER: I find that about 9 more members want to speak. So I must adjust the time of the speakers as I must close down at a certain time.

Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, may I suggest that Maulvi Abdul Jabbar may be given a chance to speak as he has not spoken at all this session?

Mr. SPEAKER: Then his name should have been given earlier.

Mr. PRAMATHA NATH BANERJEE: Sir, may I suggest that each speaker may be given three minutes?

Mr. SPEAKER: I will consider that.

Maulvi ABDUL JABBAR: Sir, I would like to make a few remarks regarding Public Health. The money provided for supply of kala-azar specific and quinine in the rural areas in quite insufficient. In the

rural areas, kala-azar, malaria and other diseases take a very large toll every year for want of any treatment. In the majority of cases no medical relief is available to them. The few dispensaries that exist in the countryside are not sufficient to serve the vast population inhabiting the rural areas and even in these dispensaries the quantity of special medicine supplied for treatment of kala-azar is quite inadequate. The consequent result is that a majority of the people in the remote villages who lead their life in half-starvation and extreme poverty get no medical relief. I think this is one of the reasons why many of our educated men have abandoned their country homes and have flocked in the towns.

Sir, the existing health units in each thana under Sanitary Inspectors are doing no useful work to the extent which it was expected of them. The present health units should be done away with for something better. The proposal for the establishment of a dispensary in each union to be in charge of a medical officer who will give both preventive and curative reliefs is welcome and Government ought to consider the matter seriously at once with a view to deal with the problem of rural health effectively commensurate with the need of the people in the countryside.

To give relief to the rural population until any comprehensive scheme is prepared it is not only necessary to equip the existing village dispensaries with increased supply of quinine and special medicines for treatment of malaria and kala-azar, but it is also necessary through the medium of district boards or union boards to open the requisite number of malaria and kala-azar centres in the rural areas at such places where there are no dispensaries within a reasonable distance. This means more and increased grants to the local bodies, but nothing substantive has been done in this direction.

Sir, it is the duty of all civilised governments to help the people in getting rid of all preventible and other diseases. In the name of the suffering humanity I would appeal to the Hon'ble Minister to realise the depth of misery and the extent of suffering of the people living in the villages and take effective steps in the matter without any further delay.

Sir, though provision has been made for rural water-supply, but in view of the huge demand the provision seems to be quite inadequate. In this connection I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the fact that sinking of wells and tube-wells has been made conditional on local contribution and the inevitable result of this has been that the poor people who are unable to make any contribution have been mostly deprived of the benefit of water-supply provided by the Government. Scarcity of good drinking water in the rural area is so great that it calls for immediate attention of the Government.

I would accordingly request the Hon'ble Minister to prepare a comprehensive scheme for rural water-supply and not to make local contribution a condition precedent to sinking wells in all cases. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Sir, I want to speak about the proposed establishment of a climatic sanitarium at Kalimpong. You all know that in Bengal out of a population of 50 millions a million, that is, 10 lakhs——

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Sir, the honourable member is speaking on a Medical subject and not on a Public Health subject.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: No, Sir. This is a Public Health subject. I am referring to the Tuberculosis Sanitarium——

Mr. SPEAKER: Whatever it is, you may speak on the Public Health aspect and not on its Medical aspect.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I think, he can refer to the the preventive side and not to the curative side of tuberculosis.

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Yes, Sir, that he can do.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: All right, Sir. I will speak on prevention of tuberculosis.

Sir, at present there are 10 lakhs of people suffering from tuberculosis in Bengal of whom 2 lakhs are in such an advanced stage that their sputum, their coughing and their sneezing carry infection to other people. As a matter of fact, out of every 50 men in Bengal one is a source of infection to others and in this House with a membership of 250, 5 of us are spreading the disease all around us, and in every village of Bengal there are at least ten people who may be a source of infection to others. So that is the position of Bengal and if we want to save Bengal from this, we must go ahead with the problem of prevention of infection. How that infection can be prevented? The only effective way of preventing the spread of infection is to have sanitariums in suitable areas and the best sites for having sanitariums are the hills. I, a veteran tuberculosis patient, have suffered from

pulminory tuberculosis once 20 years back and again from tuberculosis of the bone eight or nine years back. I know how to prevent the spread of infection. There is only one place where you can go if you want to be cured and also if you want to see that others are not infected and that is the hills. In Bengal there are three such hill places, viz., Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong. I had been to Kurseong and I know that that place is not suitable because if you want to be cured of tuberculosis and not spread infection to others you must have sufficient sun-shine and in Kurseong in every month I think it rains nearly 13 days. Not only this, there is also constant fog. So you cannot expose yourself. Similar is the condition of Darjeeling. The only place which is most convenient for the treatment of tuberculosis is Kalimpong. This is not only my own personal experience but this experience has been borne out by an expert Committee which was appointed by the Bengal Government in 1935 to go into the matter and they after investigation——

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid you are speaking not on prevention but on cure.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: I am speaking about prevention. In the case of tuberculosis prevention and cure go hand in hand. Sir, I am an expert in tuberculosis.

Mr. SPEAKER: I know all experts are dangerous men. (Laughter.)

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Sir, he is a doctor and patient combined in one. (Laughter.)

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: In 1935 a committee was appointed by Bengal Government. That committee consisted of five experts and those experts came to the conclusion that in the whole district of Darjeeling the Kalimpong ridge is the most suitable spot. And there is one spot in that Kalimpong ridge which is called Birkmyre Site and which got 87 marks out of 100 and this was the highest mark which any single spot got. To get further expert opinion, the Government of Bengal invited the Superintendent of the best sanitarium in India, that is the Madanapalli Sanitarium in Madras, to go into the matter. He himself went over the whole of the Darjeeling district, investigated into the matter and came to the conclusion that this Birkmyre Site was the best place. But as you know, Sir, there is a band of Missionaries there in Kalimpong who practically rule in that area and as soon as those Missionaries found that some outsiders were

coming who might influence the people there, they at once raised a hue and cry saying that this place will be full of tuberculosis if a sanitarium is established there.

(The member at this stage having reached his time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. W. C. PATTON: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sure there is not a single member of this House who is not in sympathy with the sufferers from the dread disease of tuberculosis. I consider that the wide-spread nature of this disease in Bengal is one of the main problems which the Government will have to face and fight continually for many years to come.

But with regard to the points raised by Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee, I can assure him from my own personal knowledge and from what has been done by Government that there has been no apathy on the part of Government. The only reason why this sanitarium was not started before is the difficulty which has arisen in selecting a suitable site. One condition is that the site shall be climatically suitable for curing tuberculosis, and the second is that it shall be in Bengal. These two conditions do not naturally go together. After making the investigations, the doctors decided that Kalimpong was to some extent suitable, not that it was an ideal place at all, but it was probably one of the best. That was the opinion of the experts who investigated on behalf of Government, but that opinion was not agreed to by the members of the medical profession who have lived in Kalimpong for any length of time and who have known Kalimpong through and through. They and the people of Kalimpong know that the site selected could only be a hot weather sanitarium at best, and that it is not possible for plains people whose resistance has already been reduced by the disease to remain there in winter. It is subject at times to intense mist probably averaging some 450 hours in the year, and probably for every hour of mist we can count a death for a tuberculosis case. Last October some of the Hon'ble Ministers went to Kalimpong to inspect the selected site for the sanitarium and I am glad to say that on the very day on which they inspected the whole of the site was covered by mist, and the only place which they could see was the plot of land on which they were standing.

But this is not the only reason why the people of Kalimpong have agitated against the establishment of a climatic sanitarium there. They fear the spread of the disease amongst their own members. They know that Kalimpong is unsuitable for the cure of tuberculosis by climate, but they know also that if Kalimpong be given the name of being climatically suitable by the establishment of a climatic sanitarium there that for every one who goes to the sanitarium there will be many

others who say, "Why should I pay Rs. 5 or Rs. 10 per day to live in the sanitarium, when I can be cured by going to Kalimpong and living in cheap quarters in the town?" The result will be the spread of infection which cannot be controlled. The conviction of the people of Kalimpong is not due to any superstition nor to influence from the three or four relatively wealthy people who have settled there. It is based upon common sense and upon the established facts as known to them in connection with other climatic sanitoria. Let me read you some extracts from a letter written by Dr. E. C. Cousins when in charge of Almora Sanitorium—

"It will certainly be a disaster to the public health of the town if a sanitarium is built in Kalimpong. In Almora for fifty years or more people with tuberculosis have been coming up from the plains and have so infected every house almost in the place that the previously healthy population have become seriously affected. Almora has a particularly good climate for tuberculosis, whereas Kalimpong certainly has not.

"After allowing these things to go on for half a century, the Almora Municipality has this year passed a by-law (which one feels pretty sure, will not, and cannot be enforced) to try to prevent tuberculosis patients from occupying houses in the more crowded areas of the bazar."

That is the view of the Kalimpong people and that view is justified by an expert. Realising these difficulties I have for some time past and when opportunities occurred been searching in the hills for sites which might be considered suitable for the establishment of a climatic sanitarium without having the worst of the defects of Kalimpong, and on Sunday next the Surgeon-General for Bengal, the Director of Public Health and Dr. Ukil will accompany the Civil Surgeon of Darjeeling and myself to inspect a site called Laringaon which I believe rather more suitable than Kalimpong, although it will be necessary to construct a motorable road to it. I believe the cost of that road will not be great, but even if it were, it would be a minor consideration in comparison with the lives of the brothers and sisters and sons and daughters of the poor people of Kalimpong which will be lost should Government be so inconsiderate as to establish the sanitarium in Kalimpong, all of which loss of life would be the direct responsibility of the Government which did so.

Sir, that is the view of Kalimpong people. This agitation has not been organised by the Missionary people there. It has come from the people themselves and they say "If, by the action of the Government of Bengal, our sons and daughters die who will give them back to us?" That is the reason why Government cannot put the sanitarium in Kalimpong itself. Nor is there any need to do so, when there are sites which are away from an existing town. I do not see any reason why

a good road should not be constructed if a suitable site be found for a sanitarium at Laringaon where the medical officers of Government are going on Sunday next.

Dr. GOBINDA CHANDRA BHOWMIK: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 47,12,000 for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100.

বাংলাদেশে, আমরা ১৯৩৭ সালের রিপোর্টে জানতে পেরেছি যে মোট ১,২৩২,৯৭১টী লোক মারা গিয়াছে। তার মধ্যে ৩৭২,৯৩২ ম্যালেরিয়ায় মারা গেছে, কলেরায় মারা গেছে ৩২,৭১০ জন, বসন্তে মারা গেছে ২১,২২৭ জন, ডিসেন্ট্রীতে মারা গেছে ৫৬,৪০০ জন, যক্ষ্মায় মারা গেছে ১৪,৬৬০ জন, বিভিন্ন ব্যারামে ৯৬,৯৮৬ জন, insanity তে মারা গেছে ৩০০,৭৭০ জন এবং মরা অবস্থায় শিশু জন্মেছে ৭৭,৬১৬ জন। আমাদের বাংলাদেশের এই হচ্ছে পরমায়ু। এই হোচ্ছে vitality র বিবরণ। অচিরেই এর উন্নতি হওয়া বিশেষ প্রয়োজন। গত তিন বছর ধোরে মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী যেভাবে এ বিভাগটা পরিচালনা কোরে আসছেন তাতে আমাদের দুঃখিত হওয়া ছাড়া আনন্দিত হওয়ার কিছুই নেই। এই তিন বছরে তিনজন মন্ত্রীকে এই বিভাগটা পরিচালনা কোরতে দেখা গেল, কিন্তু কেউ কিছুই করেন নি। আমরা প্রত্যেকবারের বাজেট সেসনেই শুনতে পাই যে তাঁরা সত্যিকারের দরিদ্র জনসাধারণের জন্য কিছু কোরবেন। বাজেট উপস্থিত করার সময় আমরা অনেক জোর গলায় বাক্যাবলি শুনতে পাই বটে, কিন্তু বছর কেটে গেলে যখন হিসাব-নিকাশের সময় আসে তখন দেখা যায় যে মন্ত্রীরা কিছুই করেন নি। ম্যালেরিয়া দূর করার জন্য অনেক স্কীমের কথা শুনেছি। দু বছর পূর্বে থেকে স্কীম চোলেছে, কিন্তু কোন স্কীমই কার্য্যকরী হলো না। এখন দেখছি এই মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলের যে ২ বৎসর আয়ু আছে এর মধ্যে কোন স্কীম কার্য্যকরী হবে বোলে মনে হয় না। ম্যালেরিয়ার প্রকোপে পল্লীগ্রামের কৃষকেরা আজ পঙ্গু। যারা জাতির মেরুদণ্ড, যারা না কি সত্যিকারের অর্থ উৎপাদনকারী, যাদের প্রদত্ত অর্থে আমরা সকলে এবং বড় লোকেরা এখানে আজ এসেছেন তারা না খেয়ে বিনা চিকিৎসায় যাতে অকালে মারা না যায় সেটা আমাদেরই দেখা উচিত। কিন্তু আমাদের এমনি দুর্ভাগ্য যে আমাদের মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর তার প্রতি নজর দেবার সুবিধাই হয় না। আমরা যখনি পাড়াগাঁয়ে যাই, দেখতে পাই কৃষকদের অনেকেরই খাবার সংস্থান নেই। আমার প্রফেসনাল জীবনে গরীবদের অবস্থা দেখবার যথেষ্ট সুযোগ রয়েছে। দেখেছি অনেক সময় ঔষধ যদিও বা জুটলো, পেটে পথ্য দেওয়ার সুবিধা বা উপায় নেই। তাই আমরা বোলে আসছি সত্যই যদি গরীবদের বাঁচাতে হয় তাহলে পাবলিক হেলথ ডিপার্টমেন্টের বিশেষ অগ্রবর্ত্তী হওয়া উচিত। আমার বর্ত্তমানে মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের প্রতি অনুরোধ এই যে তিনি এমন কাজ কিছু করুন যার জন্য তিনি চিরস্মরণীয় হোয়ে থাকবেন। এখানে দলাদলির question কিছুই নেই। যে শ্রেণীর লোক হোক না কেন, দেশের সকল লোককেই আগে বাঁচাতে হবে—এই যদি করণীয় হয় তাহলে অচিরেই সেই কাজ সুরু কোরতে হবে যাতে নাকি দেশের লোক বাঁচে। ম্যালেরিয়া, কলেরা, কালাজ্বর, যক্ষ্মা, বসন্ত প্রভৃতির প্রকোপে দেশ উজাড় হোয়ে যাচ্ছে। আমি আমার constituency র এবং পার্শ্ববর্ত্তী গ্রামগুলিতে দেখতে পাই জমি পোড়ে আছে, চাষ করবার লোক নেই। সে সব জায়গায় জমির দাম ২৫।৩০ টাকা প্রতি একর, কিন্তু যেখানে ম্যালেরিয়া নেই সেখানে তার দশগুণ দাম। ৮।৯ মাইল ব্যবধানের ভিতর জমির দামের একটা তারতম্য। তার কারণ যেখানে ম্যালেরিয়ার আক্রমণ কম সেখানে এখনো লোকজনের বাস রয়েছে। আর যে সব জায়গা ম্যালেরিয়ার আক্রমণে জনশূন্য হোয়েছে সেখানে দিনের বেলায় লোক যাতায়াত কোরতে ভয় পায়। সে সব অঞ্চলে ঘরবাড়ী সব পোড়ে আছে, বাস করবার লোক নেই। কাজেই আজ মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীকে এমনভাবে আইন কোরতে হবে ও টাকা ব্যয় করতে হবে যাতে ঐ জায়গাগুলি আবার চাষ হতে পারে।

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while discussing the grant in general, I would congratulate——

(At this stage Maulvi Md. Mozammel Huq rose to speak.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Huq, your name is much down below. I cannot do anything.

Mr. ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: I would congratulate the Government on their earnestness in the matter of rural water-supply. Government have provided in the budget Rs. 7½ lakhs for water-supply and we really appreciate their earnestness and readiness to float a loan, if necessary, to meet the situation. Personally, however, I think that 7½ lakhs of rupees are quite inadequate for the purpose. Scarcity of good drinking water in the rural area is a great problem which should be solved by any popular Government. In the districts of Eastern Bengal, particularly in my own district, Sir, which is a river district—in the southern part of it—there is enough water, but it is saline and I am tempted to say that "water, water everywhere, but not a drop to drink". In the northern part of the district, Sir, *khals* which are the main source of water-supply have silted up and as a result, in both these parts, cholera and malaria have been taking a heavy toll of lives every year.

Now, Sir, as regards the *khals* I am tempted to quote an instance. The other day the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Public Health, in reply to my own starred question No. 39 this session said that as a result of investigation by the Assistant Director of Public Health, Eastern Circle, it was found that a certain *khal*, called Thanda Bibi's *khal*, has been silted up, and irrigation, sanitation, water-supply and communication of a vast area have been affected. As to the steps taken, the Government addressed the district board to include this as an anti-malarial project among other major schemes of the district. Here I am constrained to say, Sir, that the duty of the Government would not end here; the Government cannot leave the people to their fate. To include the scheme with other major schemes means a great delay which the matter cannot brook. Now that a malaria engineer has been appointed, let no money, not a *cowrie* of the anti-malarial grant, lapse, as it has happened in the years past. It is, no use, Sir, showing any figure or money in the budget but not spending it owing to schemes not having materialised. There are district boards, I admit, which may not take proper initiative for want of fund or for other reasons. But for that should Government stop there or in some cases, take direct action if necessary? It is really unfortunate that money under the head "Anti-malarial Grant" should remain unspent. Voluntary labour will be available in many cases, which a union board or union boards

combined can arrange, apart from district boards. There is great enthusiasm in countryside which should not be allowed to cool down.

Apart from this, Sir, I would congratulate the Government on the work of tuberculosis survey which they have undertaken in some of the centres in Bengal. One party which is working at Barisal has in the meantime been doing very useful work in the matter of creating a sanitary consciousness among the urban population and the neighbourhood. I would ask the Government to give this party proper facilities for propaganda work in rural areas also where it is more needed——

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit, resumed his seat.)

The Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja HABIBULLAH Bahadur, of Dacca: Sir, I have listened with great interest especially to the speech of my colleague from Dacca, Mr. J. C. Gupta, when moving his cut motion. He has, as is usual with him, referred to certain omissions and commissions of Government—what Government had committed and what Government had not committed. He has also quoted certain extracts from my statement but may I remind him that the statement which I made in the beginning was that I had taken over this department only on the 8th of January and the Assembly began its sittings on the 15th of February? He thinks that I have got the vision of a *Mahatma* that I should know beforehand that I was to take the Medical Department, and to learn up all the subjects before that. Now, Sir, I am surprised, that a lawyer like him should make a statement that the Government instead of an increased demand on water-supply has reduced it. Sir, if he had kindly taken pains to read my statement carefully he would have found that I mentioned it not in respect of this Government but that it was the Government of India that reduced the grant on this subject from Rs. 2 lakhs 80 thousand to Rs. 1 lakh 40 thousand, and for this this Government is not responsible. The Bengal Government have been giving for the last three years a grant of Rs. 7½ lakhs for the purpose of rural water-supply. Now if the honourable member begins his criticism with a statement of this character it becomes difficult for me to reply to criticisms which are unfounded. In regard to rural water-supply I have already said that the Government have got a comprehensive scheme for trying to solve this problem, but the fault does not lie at the door of this Government. Government have asked the district boards to send them comprehensive schemes. As I have mentioned in my speech to this House, certain district boards only have sent their schemes and there are many others who have not yet done so. As soon as Government receive all these schemes regarding rural water-supply from the district boards I can assure the House that Government will tackle the problem in right

earnest. And they have decided definitely that this problem must be solved within the limit of a number of years, say, three or five years, so that the whole of Bengal may have a proper water-supply for its rural population.

Sir, a great deal has been made in regard to some grants which have been allotted but which have not been spent. In regard to the grant for malaria schemes, I have already mentioned in my speech that the Government has revised its policy in regard to this grant. Formerly, small sums were given for clearing up small little areas, but what Government have recently felt is that it was a mere waste of money to do so in regard to schemes on a small scale and they have decided now to revive the policy of going in for large schemes which will be of real benefit to the rural population in solving this problem of rural water-supply. Secondly, a small grant of Rs. 14,000 was not spent in regard to the malaria engineer because we found it difficult to get the right person at the right time. Now that we have got a malaria engineer that money will be spent. In the same way there are certain other grants which have not been spent, because when a big scheme is to be taken in hand like water-supply scheme, those schemes will have to come from the local bodies and delay caused in this matter by reason of schemes not coming in time from local bodies in cases where Government have accepted a certain scheme will render it necessary for that scheme to be modified and also for other reasons which were not taken into consideration at the time. Therefore, Sir, it is not the case that this Government have put in a grant and have had it passed and not wanted to spend it. There are again certain factors which have arisen and it is for that reason that the money could not be spent. Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee, who was just sitting on the top benches a little while before, had tried to speak on the climatic sanatorium which is in the Medical budget. Sir, as that budget has been a day old now having been already passed yesterday, I do not think it would be allowed to me to speak on the subject, much though I should have liked to reply. As I have already said, Sir, I have thrown out the olive branch to all my friends and I have tried to tell them that we should all sit down together to devise ways and means. We know the problem and its seriousness and I should expect co-operation from all sections of this House, but I am sorry to say, Sir, that the co-operation which I appeal for is not to be given to me. (Cries of "yes, yes, you will get that" from the Congress Benches.) I have already stated that any advice which is given me by any section of this House will be gratefully received and carefully considered by me because I feel that it is neither one man's job nor one department's job. The whole of Bengal should think and concentrate in solving this very serious problem and I am sorry that instead of giving suggestions which may be accepted by Government, instead of doing that, Sir, they have criticised the policy of

Government for which I was not responsible, and to which I cannot give a proper reply. Instead of doing that, Sir, I should have thought that it would have been far better for the people for whom my friends here feel so much if they had given Government some valuable suggestions which they could have accepted and acted upon.

As I have already said, Sir, Government are in serious earnest in this matter and they are determined that some ways and means must be found, but, Sir, no Government in the whole world has ever been able by its own efforts alone to solve such a huge problem. Mr. J. C. Gupta went on to say that we should prevent death. There is no one in the world born as yet who has been able to prevent death. What any Government have been able to do is to try and alleviate human sufferings and bring about immunisation of the human race. I hope I have answered all the questions. There have been many suggestions made. I think I have been able to make myself very clear as to what Government propose to do They are in earnest and they hope to be able to come forward with schemes. We shall all try and solve these problems together. Under these circumstances, I would request my honourable friends to withdraw their cut motions. If not, we shall be obliged to oppose them.

The motion of Mr. Md. Abul Fazl that the demand of Rs. 47,12,000 under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu that the demand of Rs. 47,12,000 under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Babu Lakshmi Narayan Biswas that the demand of Rs. 47,12,000 under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Rai Bahadur Jogesh Chandra Sen that the demand of Rs. 47,12,000 under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Jogesh Chandra Gupta that the demand of Rs. 47,12,000 under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Dr. Gobinda Chandra Bhowmik that the demand of Rs. 47,12,000 under the head "39—Public Health" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Nawab Khwaja Habibullah Bahadur, of Dacca, that the demand of Rs. 47,12,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health", was then put and agreed to.

Mr. SPEAKER: As it is now nearing 8 p.m., there is no time to take up the Demand for Grant under the head "Land Revenue."

Adjournment.

It being 7-55 p.m.—

The House was adjourned till 4-45 p.m. on Monday, the 18th March, 1940, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Monday, the 18th March, 1940, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. M. ASHRAF ALI), in the Chair, 10 Hon'ble Ministers and 214 members.

Obituary Reference.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ladies and gentlemen, it is with regret that I have to inform the House of the death of Mr. J. L. Banerjee on Saturday last. He was a member of the old Bengal Legislative Council, and was well-known as an educationist. Our sympathy may be conveyed to the bereaved family. I ask you, therefore, to rise in your places to signify your consent.

(The members rose in their places.)

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

The Secretary will take necessary steps to convey the message to proper quarters.

SHORT-NOTICE STARRED QUESTION

(to which oral answer was given)

Scheme for widening the bed of the river Kaliaghai in Midnapore district.

***231A. Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state whether the scheme to widen the bed of the river Kaliaghai, in Midnapore (district), on both sides has received the administrative sanction of the Government?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what amount the entire scheme will cost?

(*c*) Will the Government meet from the General Revenues the entire sum of money which will be required for the scheme?

(*d*) If not, do the Government contemplate realisation from th people of the area to be benefited by the scheme any part of the amour required for the scheme presently or in future?

(*e*) To which item of the expenditure of the Provincial Budget wi this sum be debited?

(*f*) Has the people of the area to be benefited been asked by th Government to pay a part of the cost required for the scheme?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORK DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra Nandy of Cossim bazar): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The estimated cost is Rs. 85,931.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) and (*f*) The scheme has been sanctioned on condition tha expenditure from Provincial Revenues does not exceed Rs. 68,800 th balance being met by local contribution in cash and labour.

(*e*) "18—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from ordinary reve nues—B—Navigation, embankment and drainage works—Works" a shown at page 16 of the Irrigation Budget for 1940-41.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (*c*) namely, "No", will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how th contributions from Government and from the public respectively hav been arrived at?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar It has a fairly long history behind it. There is nothing new in th question of proportion between the Government and local contributions The total estimate was prepared and the figure of local contribution wa arrived at in the usual way.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the local contribution as stated in the answer ha got first to be raised before any action will be taken by Government o whether Government will proceed with the work and subsequently raise local contribution?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: That will depend on the local officers.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the decision of Government on this question?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Government want to be assured of the amount of public contribution.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (*d*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether this contribution is going to be voluntary or compulsory, i.e., on the basis of any fees to be levied or otherwise?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Again I would repeat that everything would depend on the local officers. It may be that contribution will be partly in cash and partly in voluntary labour. It is left to the local officer, i.e., the District Magistrate, to decide how much of the money should be collected in advance or how much voluntary labour will be available which would go as contribution from the public.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the money is to be collected as voluntary contribution or any extra legal pressure is going to be put?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I am not aware of any law to enforce such payments. This amount is certainly to be collected as a voluntary contribution; and since a very large amount is being spent from the public exchequer, it is only meet and proper that the local people who will be benefited should bear a share of the cost

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if this voluntary contribution is going to be such a voluntary contribution as was realised in the district of Tippera in connection with the construction of the Anderson Khal?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I have no knowledge about the method of collection made on any previous occasions in any other place.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what arrangements have been made for raising local subscription and what process has been approved of by Government for realising or permitting realisation of such local contribution?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: We have not prescribed any method to raise this contribution. It will depend on the local officer and the circumstances of the case.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Are we to understand that the local officer is left entirely free to exercise his own volition as to the method of collection, legal or extra legal?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Sir, the answer is obvious. Government expect every officer to obey the law and not violate it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government is considering the desirability of laying down a definite direction or policy for raising the contribution, so that no hardship may be caused to the people?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: So far no complaint of any hardship has been brought to the notice of Government in similar cases and I do not think any case has been made out so far to take any action by Government in that direction

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the different schemes which he had in mind when he said that so far no complaint of any hardship has been brought to the notice of Government in similar cases?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Any scheme which might have been taken up by Government on previous occasions.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in connection with the Anderson Khal at Tipperah, there were numerous complaints and even cases in Courts were lodged against District Officers concerned for alleged oppressive action on their part?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Yes, I came to know about it unofficially. Some cases, I believe, were started, but they were dismissed in the Court of law and it was not proved that there was any torture on the part of local officers

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the officer concerned was convicted in one of the cases?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I do not think so. My memory is not so sharp as to remember all those facts.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the members of union boards or the local people were consulted before the local contribution was determined?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: As far as I am aware, Government got some assurance that the amount which has been fixed as local contribution would be forthcoming. Whether there was any conference with the people of the locality or not, I cannot say definitely.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, my question has not been answered. My question was whether the members of the union boards and the local people were consulted before the local contribution was determined?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: I am not aware of that fact.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government have sanctioned this scheme in furtherance of the irrigation policy of the Government, and if so, what are the reasons for making the condition that the scheme will be worked out only if local contribution is realised?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Sir, I may at once state for the information of the House that if the cost of the future irrigation schemes are not shared by the people who will be benefited, I think solution of the irrigation problems of the province will be a far cry.

Adjournment motion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our party had given notice of an adjournment motion through Mr. Narendra Narayan Chakrabarty, a member of this party, and we have got the consent of the Hon'ble Speaker to that. May we have the privilege of moving the same?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: But no arrangement has been made for it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is the party Whips who arrange it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no Congress Whip in the House now.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The Deputy Whip came and told me to draw your attention to it. If you like, Sir, we will move the motion to-morrow.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: No, Sir, I object to that. Either the motion will be taken up to-day or it will not be moved at all.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The permission of the Speaker has been obtained. If you want to postpone it till to-morrow I am quite prepared.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You cannot do that. You must move the motion either to-day or not at all.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I will hand over the motion to you. The motion relates to a recent occurrence, viz., assault by the members of the police force at Chittagong town committed on peaceful members of a procession on the 14th instant resulting in serious injuries. It is an important urgent matter and of recent occurrence and arising out of this there is no police case. The statement of facts has been stated along with it and the object has been made clear and this motion is within the rules of the Assembly Rules and Orders.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will honourable members who are in favour of this motion being taken up please rise in their seats?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, that will be only considered when there is an objection.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I have already objected to it.

(Members rose in their seats and a count was taken.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As the required number of members have not stood up leave is not granted.

DEMAND FOR GRANT.

"7—Land Revenue".

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 28,08,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue".

I do not like to tire the patience of the House with a detailed review of the demands made under the different heads of the budget. An analysis of the provisions both under the receipt and the expenditure side of the budget is already contained in the Red Book, and it hardly needs supplementing. I therefore propose on this occasion to dwell only upon the various administrative problems, vitally affecting the interests of the actual cultivators of the soil, which have already received or are still engaging the careful consideration of Government:—

I.—Revisional Settlement Operations.

(*a*) The Provincial Programme of preparation of record-of-rights which was initiated 35 years ago is in its concluding stage.

(*b*) The records have little value after the *lapse of 20 to 22 years* and High Court is of opinion that those which are 25 years old are useless for proving anything in courts.

(*c*) The previous Government decided to take up revisional settlements in 1936 but this was deferred by new Government to finance other projects of more pressing nature.

(*d*) Bihar in which conditions are similar used to maintain their records by revisional operations but abandoned this only in 1934. But that province now propose to start revisional operations. In the other provinces the tenancy system is different but most of them have their own methods of keeping the records up to date.

(*e*) It is proposed to take up revisional settlements in Bakarganj and Faridpur of which the records are over 25 years old.

(*f*) It is hoped that landlords and tenants will not have to pay more than 13 as. 6 p. per acre which compares favourably with the rates varying from 13 annas to Rs. 2-8 as. hitherto recovered from them.

11.—Mr. Stuart's Report.

Mr. Stuart's report of the administration of the Khas Mahal Department was carefully examined by the Board of Revenue and the Revenue Department and many of these recommendations were given effect to, while others could not be accepted on administrative and other grounds. Some of the main recommendations accepted by the department were—

(1) *New chars* should not be settled unless they become *fit for cultivation* and unless beds of *khals* and sites are reserved for *drainage purposes*. Embankments in future are to be constructed with the previous consent of the Irrigation Department. These are some of the grievances which were brought to the notice of the Special Officer in Noakhali, Bakarganj and Sunderban areas.

(2) Holdings should not ordinarily be *less than 5 acres* in size and where any holding is found to be less in area, in settling lands of contiguous holdings, *preference* is to be given to the holder of the former.

(3) In areas partially affected by diluvion where the Land Revenue Settlement is in operation *reduction* of rent may be allowed on application owing to the reduction of the fertility of the soil. In areas where lands become unfit for cultivation after settlement owing to circumstances beyond the control of the Khas Mahal Department and of the tenants, tenants are allowed to make *temporary surrender* of their tenancies so deteriorated with option for revival of the right to pay rent.

(4) Tahsildars are allowed to make collection amicably and to abstain from having recourse to *coercive measures* as far as possible.

Hitherto *improvement schemes* in Crown Estates have been mostly disjointed. There was no comprehensive scheme or *co-ordinated method* for improvement of Khas Mahals. Government have decided that they should prepare programme of improvement works to be completed within a period of five years and with a view to help Government in the preparation of the programme, a Special Officer was appointed to draw up schemes on local inspection.

Certificate procedure for the realisation of agricultural rents was suspended in 1345 B.S. for 2 years so far as Government and Court of Wards estates were concerned. This necessitated the appointment of a large staff for *door to door collection* and rent suits numbering about 8,000 had to be filed up to the last *tamadi* day (17th April, 1939). Tenants in some areas having realised that civil suits are more costly,

opinion for the reintroduction of the certificate procedure is daily gaining ground. At their request it has been reintroduced in Contai Khas Mahals.

I may mention here that I myself visited Contai and discussed the question with some of the Khas Mahal tenants and they urged the reintroduction of certificate procedure instead of the institution of civil suits for realisation of rent. Accordingly Government decided to comply with the request of the tenants in the particular area.

Under the provisions of section 11 of Act VII of 1868 A.D. the Sale Law, i.e., Act XI of 1859 is applicable to the Khas Mahal Jotes in Jalpaiguri. After the suspension of the certificate procedure in Khas Mahals recourse had to be taken to the Sale Law for realisation of arrear rents in the *Jalpaiguri Khas Mahals*. As the *jotedars* preferred the certificate procedure to the application of the Sale Law Government accordingly reintroduced the procedure in these Khas Mahals.

III.—Fisheries.

The attention of Government was drawn to the unsatisfactory conditions prevailing in regard to fisheries and Government accordingly appointed a Special Officer in November, 1938, to examine the problems relating to fisheries in Bengal. The terms of reference were—

(*a*) To prepare *record-of-rights* of a number of main river fisheries in the Presidency and Dacca Divisions embracing all kinds and grades of fishery interests and illustrating all revenue problems that are likely to present themselves.

(*b*) To investigate the possibilities of *State control* of fisheries with reference to the rights of landlords under the Permanent Settlement and those of the lessees or fishermen.

(*c*) To examine whether it is possible to *confer occupancy rights* on fishermen on the analogy of those rights enjoyed by tenants in land under the Bengal Tenancy Act, and if so, how far.

The officer submitted his final report in December, 1939.

The question of fishery rights is a very complicated one and involves many revenue as well as economic problems. Unlike the tenancy law there is no statutory provision detailing the rights and obligations of the various interests. Conditions are different in different local areas and various local systems have grown up. Fishermen are mostly poor and unorganised. A sudden change in the system may throw them at the mercy of people from whom it is intended to protect them. The rights and interests of various middle men who have an important place in the existing organisation have also to be considered. The

problems are mostly novel in nature and cannot be solved without careful consideration. The Board of Revenue has therefore been directed to have the report printed and to examine the suggestions in the first instance.

IV.—Land Alienation.

The question of controlling alienation of land by agriculturists to non-agriculturists has been brought before this House on several occasions during the last two years and it has been urged by several members of the House that Government should at once direct their attention to this problem so as to prevent further land passing from the agriculturists to non-agriculturists. Government, I may mention, have seriously taken up the question and have collected statistics of alienation during the last 12 years so as to properly appreciate the problem. The area that has been enquired into is 85,470·04 acres in the several districts in Bengal. The area actually transferred during the last 12 years is 5923·35 acre, i.e., only 7 per cent. of the total area enquired into. Of this area 38 per cent. is cultivated by the family of the purchasers, 31·7 per cent. by *bargadars* and 5·7 per cent. by labourers and 24·6 per cent. by under-tenants. Thus of the total area only 7 per cent. of the land has passed hands and of this 7 per cent. 56·3 per cent. or just over ½ may have passed to non-agriculturists so that the utmost 3½ per cent. of the land in the last 12 years has passed to non-agriculturists. But the actual amount is still less as it does not follow that a person who cultivates through *bargadar* or under-tenant is a non-agriculturist; he may be an agriculturist who has already got as much land as he can supervise personally. In this connection I may inform the House that with a view to make a comparative study of the problem and the remedy I myself *visited the Punjab* and studied the working of the Punjab Land Alienation Act and collected large number of statistics which may be useful for the purpose of legislation if it is decided to introduce such a measure in Bengal. The matter is being carefully worked out in the Revenue Department and I hope to place more facts with the views of Government before the House in its next session.

The *agrarian policy* of Government has been to improve the status and position of *raiyats* by conferring larger rights on them through amendment of the Bengal Tenancy Act and by offering them facilities for payment of debts in instalments and by scaling down the total amount of dues by the operation of the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act. Government have also tried to secure better price of jute for the agriculturists by issuing instructions to them with a view to preventing them from rushing to the market with their produce when the price was still low. By the amendment of the Bengal Tenancy Act and through executive instructions Government have also attempted,

since they came into office, to check realisation of all *illegal exactions from tenants*. During the time of distress Government advanced large amounts as *agricultural loan* and gratuitous relief in order to help the agriculturists to tide over periods of scarcity and distress and to undertake agricultural opertaions so that they might get full benefit of the next harvest. The amount advanced during the last two years by way of agricultural loan and gratuitous relief are Rs. 90,54,592 and Rs. 4,87,112, respectively. It is, however, rather difficult to deny that the operation of the Agricultural Debtors Act and the general economic distress were very important factors in the shrinkage of rural credit, but Government did their best to meet the situation as far as possible by advancing loan directly to agriculturists and also by helping the Central Co-operative Banks to distribute loan through the village societies. I am glad to observe that by these means Government have succeeded in *counteracting rather* successfully the *communist agitation* and the creation of *a no-rent mentality* which last year and the year before assumed a threatening proportion and seriously affected collections in the Government khas mahals and also in private estate. I regret to observe that persons holding responsible positions in life have been trying to exploit the simple cultivators by preaching communistic doctrines and creating a mentality of class warfare and class-hatred. The ex-detenus have taken a prominent part in this sort of subversive movement. These agents of communism and exponents of class warfare did not fail to exploit any situation but in most of the cases their attempts to set one class against another or to mislead the tenantry have completely failed. These are unmistakable proofs of the peace-loving nature, of honesty and commonsense, of the Bengal peasantry. I am glad that the position this year is infinitely better than last year and year before and I do hope that as people get accustomed to the new order of things to political power which the Government of India Act of 1935 has conferred on the masses and as they realise gradually their responsibility which is concommitant with the power they have received the agrarian situation will gradually settle down. In this connection I may refer to the clash of interests that is taking place between the *jotedars and the adhiars* in different parts of North Bengal specially in the districts of Dinajpur and Jalpaiguri and in certain parts of 24-Parganas over the portion of paddy which an *adhiar* has to pay to a *jotedar* and the rate of interest that is payable by an *adhiar* on the advance of grains for seed and food. The *adhiars* have got their genuine grievances on account of the realisation of such charges by the *jotedars* as payment for *jotedari* chowkidar, conveyance charges for paddy, charges for the construction of threshing floor, weighman's charge, etc. In the Thakurgaon Subdivision in Dinajpur and in the Debiganj Circle of Jalpaiguri, the clash between the two classes took a rather serious turn but the local officers were able to bring about a

compromise satisfactory to both parties. In order to control the situation and to make a settlement possible it was however necessary for the local officers to check the activities of persons who were anxious to exploit the situation for augmenting their own political influence and strengthening their position as communist leaders; well-known labour agitators and communist propagandists have taken part in the movement and have rendered the situation more difficult and complicated than it would otherwise have been, making the task of the local officials more difficult. Government hope, however, that the situation is well under control and a satisfactory solution of the problem will be soon arrived at.

Before I conclude I ought to mention that the *Land Revenue Commission* expect to complete its labour by the end of the current month. Government's idea is to take up examination of the recommendations of the Commission as soon as they are available and to formulate their policy to give effect to the recommendations at an early date. It is difficult at this stage to anticipate exactly what time would be required to finish the examination of the Report, but I hope it would be by the monsoon session of the Legislature.

Mr. ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 28,08,000 under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, I move this cut motion only to create an oportunity to show my appreciation of the assurance which the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister has practically given us in moving his grant that he will not take recourse to the certificate procedure for collection of rents; on the other hand he will ask the authorities concerned to file rent suits instead. With regard to the subdivision of Contai, I have nothing to add, but with regard to the position taken up by the Revenue Minister relating to Jalpaiguri, I very humbly suggest to him to reconsider the matter, because very recently I had a discussion with some of the members of this Assembly representing the district of Jalpaiguri who gave me to understand that a considerable section of the tenants is not in favour of the certificate procedure and so I humbly request the Hon'ble Minister to suspend the certificate procedure for collection of rent in that area. In this connection I beg to remind the Hon'ble Minister that in the Red Book of the Budget at page 55 it has been stated that decrease under "Management of Government Estates" is due to the absence of provision for the special measures referred to above, and these special measures have been described as suing the tenants for arrear rent in civil courts during the period of suspension of certificate procedure. So I submit that the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister be pleased to issue a circular as soon as possible so that the last suspension order which will end on the 31st March next may be renewed

again from the 1st of April of the current year. Sir, I have other points to state in the House, but I need not refer to them now in view of the assurance given by the Hon'ble Minister; but I would only submit and appeal to him that the revival of the certificate procedure which was contemplated in the Red Book should be stopped, as I submitted, immediately and a circular be issued within the current month to that effect. There is another thing, Sir, to which I must draw the Hon'ble Minister's attention, and is this that the programme of Government was not the suspension of the certificate procedure by executive order alone, but they are pledged to amend the Public Demands Recovery Act especially to mitigate the rigours of the certificate procedure. But, Sir, up to this time Government have not taken up legislation on that point. They only suspended the operation of the Act for two years by an executive order, and they are going to do so again—if I have understood the assurance of the Hon'ble Minister aright—by executive order. So it is expected that before the term of this Ministry comes to an end the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister will bring in a proper Bill so that even after the dissolution of the present Assembly the tenants may not be put to difficulty any more. With these words, Sir, I move my cut motion—as I submitted—only to show my appreciation of the assurance so kindly given by the Revenue Minister.

Mr. MAQBUL HOSAIN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 28,08,000 under the head "7—Land Revenue", be reduced by Rs. 100.

প্রাদেশিক স্বায়ত্ত-শাসন প্রবর্ত্তিত হওয়ার পর বঙ্গীয় প্রজাসত্ব আইন তিনবার সংশোধিত হইলেও কৃষক-প্রজার বিশেষ কোন উপকার হয় নাই। ইং ১৯৩৭ সনে বঙ্গীয় প্রজাসত্ব আইনের যে সংশোধন হইয়াছে তাহাও কৃষক-প্রজাদলের চাপেই সম্ভব হইয়াছে। মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী খাজানার দ্বিগুণ নজর-সেলামী রাখার বিধান রাখিয়া ও "strictly confidencial" এই কথা লিখিয়া যে বিলটি সর্বপ্রথম বিতরণ করিয়াছিলেন তাহা এখনও আমাদের নিকট আছে। আমরা কৃষক প্রজা পার্টি যদি উক্ত প্রজাসত্ব বিলের বিরুদ্ধে দণ্ডায়মান না হইতাম তাহা হইলে ভারপ্রাপ্ত মন্ত্রী-মহোদয় নজর সেলামী ও অগ্র-ক্রয়ের প্রথা রহিত করিয়া, যে বিলটি আইনে পরিণত হইয়াছে তাহা কখনও পরিষদে উত্থাপন করিতেন না এবং বাংলার কৃষক-প্রজা নজর সেলামী ও অগ্র-ক্রয় প্রথা হইতে রেহাই পাইত না।

সংশোধিত প্রজাসত্ব আইনে কৃষক-প্রজার খাজনা হ্রাস করা হয় নাই। বাংলার কৃষক প্রজার আর্থিক অবস্থা যে ভাবে শোচনীয় হইয়া পড়িয়াছে তাহাতে তাহাদের খাজনা হ্রাস করা একান্ত আবশ্যক। প্রত্যেক বৎসর হাজার হাজার জোত-জমি বাকী খাজনার দায়ে নীলাম হইতেছে। লক্ষ লক্ষ কৃষক ভূমি-শূন্য হইতেছে এবং পৈত্রিক বাস্তু-ভিটা হইতে জমিদার কর্তৃক বিতাড়িত হইতেছে। কাজেই এই অবস্থায় প্রজাসত্ব আইনের আমূল সংশোধন না হইলে বাংলার কৃষকের অস্তিত্ব বিনষ্ট হইবে।

কিন্তু বাংলার মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী এই দীর্ঘ তিন বৎসরের মধ্যেও প্রজাসত্ব আইনের বিশেষ কোন সংশোধন না করায় কৃষকগণ সঙ্ঘ-বদ্ধ হইতেছে। অনাহার, অর্দ্ধাহার ও অভাব-অনটনের তাড়নায়

তাহারা বিপ্লবপন্থী হইতেছে। এই বিপ্লবের ধারাকে নিশ্চিহ্ন করিবার জন্য মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী দমন-নীতির প্রয়োগ করিতেছেন। কিন্তু তাঁহাদিগকে জিজ্ঞাসা করি ইহাতে কি বিপ্লব কমিবে না বাড়িবে? দেশে যখন একবার বিপ্লব আরম্ভ হয় তখন তাহা দমন করার শক্তি কোন গভর্ণমেণ্টরই থাকে না। অতীতে অনেক দেশে ইহা প্রমাণিত হইয়াছে। কৃষক খাজনা দিতে সমর্থ থাকা-সত্ত্বেও খাজনা দিতেছে না বলিয়া মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী ও লীগপন্থী সদস্যগণ অনেক বার এই House এ কৃষক-দরদী সদস্যগণকে দোষারোপ করিয়াছেন। মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীও তাঁহাদের সমর্থকগণের এবম্বিধ প্রকারের দোষারোপের উত্তরে বাংলার কৃষক কিরূপ দুর্বহ জীবন যাপন করে, তাহার একটু নমুনা দিতেছি। ১৯২৯-৩০ ইং সনের Banking Enquiry Committee র রিপোর্টের ১ নং ভলিউমের ৮০ পৃষ্ঠায় মিঃ মোমিনের যশোহর সেটেলমেন্ট রিপোর্টের উদ্ধৃতাংশ হইতে আমরা জানিতে পারি যে ৪ জন সাধারণ কয়েদীর বাৎসরিক খাওয়া খরচের জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্ট ২০৩৵ আনা খরচ করেন। কিন্তু পাঁচজন লোকের একটি কৃষক-পরিবার গড়ে বৎসরে ১৯৭॥৵ আনার অতিরিক্ত খরচ করিতে সক্ষম হয় না। ইহা হইতে আমরা দেখিতে পাইতেছি যে ৪ জন সাধারণ কয়েদী হইতেও পাঁচজন কৃষক বৎসরে ৫।৵ আনা খাওয়ার জন্য কম খরচ করিয়া থাকে। যে দেশের কৃষক সাধারণ কয়েদীর চেয়েও দুর্বহ ও অসহনীয় জীবন যাপন করে, তাহারা খাজনা দিবে কোথা হইতে? মোটের উপর কৃষক যত দিন পর্য্যন্ত খাজনা দিতে সক্ষম ছিল তত দিন পর্য্যন্ত তাহারা রীতিমতই খাজনা আদায় করিয়াছে। এখন খাজনা দিতে সক্ষম নয় বলিয়াই খাজনা কম আদায় হইতেছে। বাংলার জমিদারগণের নিকট হইতে ইং ১৯৪০-৪১ সনে ২ কোটি ২৭ লক্ষ টাকা রাজস্ব পাওয়া যাইবে বলিয়া বাজেট হইতে আমরা জানিতে পারি। জমিদারগণ প্রজার নিকট হইতে বৎসরে ৫৪ কোটি টাকা খাজনা আদায় করিলেও গভর্ণমেণ্ট ১৮ কোটি টাকা প্রজার নিকট হইতে জমিদার বৎসরে আদায় করেন বলিয়া স্বীকার করেন। যদি তর্কের মীমাংসার জন্য ধরিয়া লওয়া যায় যে জমিদার প্রজার নিকট হইতে ১৮ কোটি টাকার অতিরিক্ত আদায় করেন না, তাহা হইলেও আমরা দেখিতে পাইতেছি যে তাঁহারা দেয় রাজস্বের ৮ গুণ প্রজার নিকট হইতে আদায় করিতেছেন। বঙ্গীয় Council এর ৩১-৮-৩৩ ইং সনের ১২৬ নং তারকাচিহ্নিত প্রশ্নের উত্তর হইতে জানা যায় যে বাখরগঞ্জ জেলার একটি মহালের খাজনা উক্ত মহালের জমিদার ঢাকার নবাব-বাড়ী প্রজার নিকট হইতে ২½ শত গুণেরও অধিক আদায় করিয়া থাকেন। (আইলাটিয়ার খালী-ফুলবাড়ী মহাল, সদর খাজনা ৩৭২৵৮ পাই, জমিদার প্রজার নিকট হইতে ৯২ হাজার টাকার কিঞ্চিত অধিক আদায় করেন) প্রত্যেক কারবারেই লাভের একটা পরিমাপ আছে। কিন্তু জমিদারের লাভের নির্দ্দিষ্ট কোন পরিমাপ নাই। বাংলার কৃষক প্রজার ধনসম্পত্তি যেন জমিদারদের লুটের মাল। জমিদারী প্রথা রহিত না হওয়া পর্য্যন্ত প্রজাসত্ত্ব আইন কি-ভাবে সংশোধন করিতে হইবে তাহার একটু আভাষ দিতেছি।

১। জমিদার বা তালুকদার কোন কালেই বা কোন অবস্থাতেই প্রজার খাজনা বৃদ্ধি করিতে পারিবে না।

২। ইং ১৯০০ সনে প্রজার খাজনা যাহা ছিল তাহা হইতে শত-করা ৫০৲ টাকা বাদ দিয়া যাহা থাকিবে তাহাই প্রজার খাজনা বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে।

৩। বাকী খাজনার সুদ শত-করা বার্ষিক ৩৵ আনা হইবে ও [illegible] ধারাগুলি তুলিয়া দিতে হইবে।

৪। জমি ও জমা খারিজ যাহাতে সহজে করিতে পারা যায় তাহার ব্যবস্থা করিতে হইবে।

৫। তিনশত টাকার পরিমাণ মূল্যের ভূমি ব্যতিত অতিরিক্ত ভূমি নীলাম হইতে পারিবে না।

৬। বসতভিটি, বাজার ও গো-চারণ ভূমির খাজনা থাকিবে না।

৭। ইং ১৯০০ সন হইতে খাজনার দায়ে যে সম্পত্তি নিলাম হইয়াছে তাহা সুদীর টাকা লইয়া পূর্ব্ববর্ত্তী মালীককে ফেরৎ দিতে হইবে।

৮। সার্টিফিকেট প্রথা রহিত করিতে হইবে এবং প্রজার পক্ষের অন্যান্য অনিষ্টকর ধারাগুলির সংশোধন করিতে হইবে।

আজ-কাল কৃষক প্রজার রাজনীতি জ্ঞানের বিকাশ হইয়াছে। তাঁহাদের বিবেক-বুদ্ধি জাগ্রত হইয়াছে। সাধারণ কৃষকও জানিতে চায় মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী কি-ভাবে কি আইন করিতেছেন। এ সম্বন্ধে সংবাদ জানা এখন তাহাদের নিত্য-নৈমিত্তিক কার্য্য হইয়া পড়িয়াছে। কাজেই এই জন-জাগরণের যুগে মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলীকে শাসন কার্য্য পরিচালন সম্পর্কে পুরাতন জীর্ণ কর্ম্ম-পন্থা পরিত্যাগ করিয়া নূতনভাবে অত্যন্ত হুসিয়ারীর সহিত কাজ করিতে হইবে। কৃষক প্রজা যখন প্রজাসত্ব আইনের আমূল পরিবর্ত্তন ও সংশোধন চায় তখন তাহাদের যে ভাবে সুবিধা হয় সে ভাবে প্রজাসত্ব আইন সংশোধন করা কর্ত্তব্য।

পরিষদের চলতি সেসনে আমি প্রজাসত্ব আইনের একখানা বিল পেশ করিয়াছি। আমার বিল-খানা গৃহিত হইলে আমার মনে হয় কৃষক-প্রজা কতক পরিমাণে অর্থনৈতিক সুবিধা লাভ করিতে পারিবে।

Mr. GIASUDDIN AHMAD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 28,08,000 under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100.

সভাপতি মহোদয়: আমার প্রস্তাবের সার মর্ম্ম হোচ্ছে সারা বাংলায় ব্যাপকভাবে খাজনার হার কমিয়ে দেওয়া। বিগত Assembly নির্ব্বাচনের সময় প্রজা সাধারণের ভিতর এই মর্ম্মে প্রচার কার্য্য চালান হোয়েছিল যে তাদের ভোটে যারা নির্ব্বাচিত হবেন তাঁরা Assemblyতে (আইন সভায়) গিয়ে এইরূপ প্রস্তাব পাশ কোরবেন যাতে প্রজাসাধারণের বর্ত্তমান খাজনা কমে যায়, তখন আমাদের প্রজা দলের নেতা ছিলেন মাননীয় প্রধান মন্ত্রী ফজলুল হক সাহেব। খাজনা কমান এবং জমিদারীপ্রথার উচ্ছেদ সম্বন্ধে বিভিন্ন স্থানে বিভিন্ন সভায় ও কনফারেন্সে বহু প্রস্তাব পাশ করা হোয়েছে এবং সে প্রস্তাব গভর্ণমেন্টের নিকট পেশ করা হোয়েছে। আমরা জানি যে জমিদারীপ্রথার উচ্ছেদসাধন অবিলম্বে হবে না। কিন্তু খাজনা কমানোর পক্ষে গভর্ণমেন্টের কোন অসুবিধা আছে বলে মনে করি না। যদিও গভর্ণমেন্ট খাজনা তদন্ত কমিটি নামে একটি কমিটি বসিয়েছেন এবং তাদের রিপোর্ট এখনও বাহির হয় নাই, আমাদের বিশ্বাস আছে কমিটি ভাল রিপোর্টই দেবে কিন্তু কমিটির রিপোর্ট যে গভর্ণমেন্ট গ্রহণ কোরবেন এ বিশ্বাস আমার নেই। কারণ ইতিপূর্ব্বে আমরা দেখেছি যে পাট নিয়ন্ত্রণ সম্বন্ধে গভর্ণমেন্ট যে Bill পাশ কোরেছেন তাতে পাট-তদন্ত কমিটির সুপারিশ প্রায় কিছুই গ্রহণ করা হয় নি, আমি জানি কারণ আমিও উক্ত কমিটির একজন সদস্য ছিলাম। কাজেই কমিটির উপর আমাদের ভরসা খুব কম। এই কমিটি করার উদ্দেশ্য গভর্ণমেন্টের কি তা আমি জানি। নিজেদের দলের কতকগুলি লোককে সন্তুষ্ট করা এবং জনসাধারণকে স্তোকবাক্য দিয়ে ভোলাবার চেষ্টা করা। এই কমিটির দ্বারা কৃষক প্রজাসাধারণের কিছুই উপকার হোতে পারে না। লর্ড Cornwallis এর সময় বাংলা দেশে চিরস্থায়ী বন্দোবস্ত হয়। সেই সময় থেকে আজ পর্য্যন্ত প্রজাসাধারণের খাজনার হার ৭ গুণের বেশী বেড়ে গেছে। এই খাজনা ছাড়া প্রজাসাধারণের কাছ থেকে অন্যায়ভাবে অনেক টাকা আদায় করা হয় তা আপনারা জানেন। প্রজাসাধারণের উপর যে ঋণের ভার চেপে আছে তাও আপনারা জানেন। বাংলার প্রজাসাধারণের ঋণের পরিমাণ ১৫০ কোটি টাকা। ১৯২৫ সালের ব্যাঙ্কিং ইন্‌কুয়ারী কমিটির রিপোর্টে তাহা দেখা যায়, উহার উপর বাকী খাজনার পরিমাণ চাপালে আরও কত কোটি টাকা বেড়ে যাবে।

খাজনা বৃদ্ধির একটা অজুহাত দেখান হয় খাদ্য-শস্যের মূল্য বেড়ে যাওয়ায় খাজনা বাড়ান হোয়েছে, কিন্তু বর্ত্তমানে খাদ্য-শস্যের মূল্য অনেক কমে গিয়েছে এখন কেন খাজনা কমান হয় না? প্রজাসাধারণের প্রকৃত উপকার তখনই হবে যখন সারা বাংলার কৃষক প্রজাসাধারণের খাজনার হার কমে যাবে। এইরকম প্রস্তাব পূর্বেও Assemblyতে আনা হোয়েছিল কিন্তু কার্য্যকরী হয় নাই। সকল দলের মেম্বরদের নিকট আমার অনুরোধ তাঁরা এই প্রস্তাব সমর্থন কোরে প্রজাসাধারণের খাজনার হার কমিয়ে দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা করুন। আর্থিক অনাটনের জন্য প্রজাসাধারণ খাজনা দিতে পারে না, সেইজন্য তাদের খাজনা বাকী পড়ে এবং খাজনা বাকীর জন্য নিজেদের ভিটামাটি উৎসন্ন হোয়ে যায়। একটা দৃষ্টান্ত দিচ্ছি তাই থেকে আপনারা বুঝতে পারবেন বাকী খাজনার জন্য কি প্রকার অত্যাচার প্রজাসাধারণের উপর করা হয়। মৈমনসিং জিলার একটি জমিদারীর কুলপুর এলাকায় বাকী খাজনার জন্য প্রজার নিকট হোতে ১,১০০ একর জমি খাস হোয়ে গেছে এ খবর আমি নিজে জানি। সারা বাংলায় এই রকম দৃষ্টান্ত আরও বহু আছে। এই অবস্থায় যে খাজনা কমান একান্ত আবশ্যক তা আপনারা বুঝতে পারেন। খাজনা কমালে অবশ্য স্বীকার করি জমিদারদের ক্ষতি হবে। কিন্তু কয়েকজন মুষ্টিমেয় বড়লোকের দিকে চেয়ে সারা বাংলার যারা মেরুদণ্ড, সেই কোটি কোটি কৃষক প্রজা, যারা অনাহারে মোর্চ্ছে, যাদের রোগে ঔষধ নাই, পরনে কাপড় নাই, তাদের কথা ভুললে চোলবে না। আমার সময় নেই সেই জন্য আমি আর বেশী কিছু বোলতে চাই না। সকল দলের মেম্বার-মহোদয়দের নিকট আমার অনুরোধ তাহারা আমার খাজনা কমানের প্রস্তাব সমর্থন কোরে কৃষক-প্রজার উপকার সাধন কোরবেন।

Mr. MANMATHA NATH ROY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 28,08,000 under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, I would point out to this House a very serious divergence between the figure for cess-receipts as given in the original budget of the current year and the figure for cess-receipts in the revised budget of the current year. It appears that in the original budget the figure for "Rates and cesses on lands" on the receipt side was Rs. 67 lakhs whereas the figure in the revised estimate is only Rs. 45 lakhs. This figure represents the public works cess receipts which were previously paid direct to the local bodies, but under the Government of India (Adaptation) Order, 1937, these are now paid to the local bodies in the form of grants.

Sir, I find in the Red Book an attempt to explain this divergence. It is said that this divergence is due to over-estimation in the original provision. Sir, I cannot accept this explanation as the real reason. Government has correct and reliable figures from which this total may be determined. The cess valuation rolls which are prepared at the time of every re-valuation, contain all relevant figures, and it is only a question of totalling up these figures in the cess valuation rolls.

Sir, the District Collectors, who have always collected this cess for the local bodies, supply to the local bodies every year the amount of cess likely to be collected during the year. These figures are not new to the Government. Sir, I can never believe that the Government officers have now all gone wrong.....

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Sir, may I know to which page the honourable member is referring?

Mr. MANMATHA NATH ROY: I am referring to page 17 of the Red Book.

Sir, I can never believe that the Government officers who know those figures and who supply those figures to the local bodies every year have now all on a sudden gone wrong. I think that the real reason is not over-estimation, but it is gross negligence on the part of Government officers in not duly realising the cesses as they fall due. I have got the figures which were supplied by the Government officers to the Howrah district board during the last few years and I shall compare those figures with the actual collection made by the Government officers:—

Year.	Estimate furnished by the Collector with regard to probable cess collection.		Actual collection	
	Cess.	Interest.	Cess.	Interest.
	Rs	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1936-37 ..	1,63,020	5,200	1,43,263	3,951
1937-38 ..	1,64,346	5,236	1,43,524	3,278
1938-39 ..	1,65,403	5,337	1,27,671	2,855

Sir, Government does not possibly know through what great financial stringency the district boards had to pass on account of this negligence on the part of Government officers in not realizing the total amount of cess that fell due. As a result of this negligence—I cannot help calling it criminal negligence—the administration and activities of the local bodies have on many occasions been paralysed.

Sir, if you compare these figures with the figures for Land Revenue and other receipts, you will find that the collection in the case of the latter is very regular and there are very small arrears. On the figures which I have just placed before the House, it is clear that heavy arrears are due in the case of rates and cesses on lands and the district boards being deprived of all those amounts which are in arrears have not been able to utilize them in the discharge of their duties and responsibilities. I cannot but characterize this as step-motherly treatment of local bodies

by the Government, and I would earnestly appeal to the Hon'ble Minister to look into this matter very carefully and to direct the officers to be prompt, regular, sincere and earnest about the collection of the cess and the rates.

There is another matter, Sir, which creates difficulties for the district board and which I would point out to this House. Previously the the Public Works cess used to be credited to the district fund in the month in which it was realised, but from the year 1938-39 it is credited to the district fund in the month next to that in which it is realised. This, Sir, is a source of great handicap to the district board. At all events I appeal to the Hon'ble Minister to permit the district board to overdraw at the end of March to the extent to which the cess is collected in March, when the district board has to meet various liabilities. A very simple adjustment may be made in April next year. The district boards have to face various claims or demands at the end of the year in March and if the district board cannot utilise in March the cess that is collected in that month, the administration of the district board will be brought to a standstill.

I may mention that we in the Howrah district board have made a representation to the Government to permit us to overdraw at the end of March to the extent to which the cess is collected in March. We have not heard anything as yet from Government and I hope that the Hon'ble Minister will see our difficulties and pass an early order.

Then the third matter to which I wish also to refer is the question of the outside cess, I mean cess which comes from outside the district. Here Government have made the rule that the outside cess is credited to the treasury of the district in the second month, i.e., the month next to that in which it is realised outside the district, and it is credited to the district fund in the third month, i.e., the month next to that in which it is credited to the treasury of the district, so that the district boards have to wait for two months or more before they can utilise the money which had already been realised outside the district. I submit, Sir, that in this matter as well I would appeal to the Hon'ble Minister to come to the rescue of the district board, and to direct that the outside cess be credited to the district fund in the month next to that in which the cess is collected outside the district.

Sir, I have brought this cut motion more from the point of view of bringing before the House and also before the Hon'ble Minister the difficulties which the district board has to face in its administration and activities, with a view to their early solution.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 28,08,000 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Which motion you are moving?

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: I am moving No. 18 on behalf of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal.

Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister about the realisation of loans. Let us first remember under what circumstances and conditions the loan was advanced to agriculturists. When the agriculturists have no other alternative to get loans from any other source, the Government were rather compelled to advance loan at a very nominal rate of interest. Now the agriculturists do not want to take loan from Government or from co-operative societies. They prefer the village mahajans and sometimes Kabuliwallas to Government because they know that village mahajans or Kabuliwallas will give extension of time if interest is paid, but these Government officers when they go to realise these loans do not hesitate to realise them by any means whatsoever because they are to satisfy their Burra Sahibs in the district headquarters. The agriculturists are so frightened of Government money that they are sometimes compelled to sell their bullocks and ploughs and even they sell their utensils to pay Government loan. Though members decided in their respective divisional conference that loans should be advanced to the agriculturists by batches of three at the minimum, as a matter of fact agriculturists were advanced loan by batches of 5 to 18-20. I know of cases in my district i.e., Bhutinidiara loans were not advanced at any time to batches less than 18 to 20. Now, when the officers come to that place they realise money from one man, and they do not bother for the rest of the company. They realise the money from one man and that one man compels the others to pay their share of the loan even by selling their bullocks, their ploughs or seeds or anything they have got in their store.

We can quite appreciate that loan is after all a loan and it must be repaid and Government must get back the loan. But Government should realise under what circumstances the legislators passed the Money Lenders Bill and under what circumstances Government extended the scope of the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act. We quite realise that Government must get back their money but Government should see that the money is repaid out of the surplus crop. Government should also see that no *zulum* or illegal tactics are used for the realisation of the loan. The ordinary agriculturists do not know how to read and write and take their money by giving thumb impression. When the officers go for realising the loan and when their prayer for time is refused they do not hesitate to sell anything they possess. If the Hon'ble Minister issues instructions to the District Officers that the officer who goes out for collecting the loan should see that the loan is

repaid out of the surplus crop, I think that will allay to a very great extent the fear which generally exists in the minds of the agriculturists with regard to Government money. Government will certainly get back their money, but what I suggest is that extension of time should be granted in some cases. Those who can afford to pay will unhesitatingly pay back. After all the agricultural loans are generally advanced only to the extent of two or three rupees and unlike loans which are granted to notabilities. Government should also remember that loans of Rs. 50,000 or one lakh are granted to notabilities and they are granted long instalments and are given several years to repay the amount. But the poor agriculturists take loans at the time when they are fighting with death and, although they take the amount with a view to purchasing seeds, actually fifty per cent. of the loan is used for their bread.

I hope Government will consider these things. They should not think that this small amount of Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 should be repaid immediately. What is Rs. 2 lakhs for notabilities and zamindars is Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 for a poor agriculturist who has got no surplus to pay from unless he gets good crops. If he gets three good crops consecutively, he will then be in a position to repay his loan. If we legislators thought it fit that the condition of the debtors was so bad that a Money Lenders Bill should be introduced and passed into an Act, then we should also feel that if village mahajans are asked to get back their money by instalments—it is from villages that most of us legislators come—then Government as money lenders also should not be more taxing than the village mahajans and Kabuliwallas. (Cries of "Hear, hear" from the Opposition Benches.)

Mr. KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 28,08,000 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, the question of providing services to the Scheduled Castes according to their population under the Court of Wards estates is an old theme on which we have been grumbling and trumpeting and trumpeting and showing to the world that our grievances are not being redressed by the Government. Sir, many times question has been put in the House by the Scheduled Castes members and also by our Muslim friends, enquiring as to what percentage and how many posts in different services have been given to the Scheduled Castes. But to our utter disappointment we find that we are only crying in the wilderness, for no justice has yet been meted out to us, nor has even any statement been made to this effect. We know, Sir, that at the beginning of the new reforms the Hon'ble the Chief Minister was willing to do something for our Scheduled Caste community. And according to that intention and sympathy of his the

ratio question was settled with great difficulty and trouble. But, Sir, though the ratio question is settled and the new constitution is working for full three three years, we are not getting even the smallest justice from the Government. Sir, we know that the Hon'ble Chief Minister is very sympathetic and has a good heart for the helpless, but I would like to ask the Chief Minister who is here, one question, viz., what has he done for these neglected millions during the three years' working of this constitution? I can say, Sir, that we have got nothing excepting only the fixation of ratio. We have not got any justice anywhere else. The other day the question was put before this Asembly, and every member is aware what answer we got from the Government. In the last B.C.S. examination out of ten Scheduled Caste candidates only four were recommended, and out of these four, only three were appointed.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: May I rise on a point of order, Sir? I think the honourable member should confine himself to the cut motion before the House and should not speak generally.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: He is making a relevant reference. He will come to the cut motion later.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Shall I wait till Doomsday?

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Yes, if necessary, unless stopped by the Chair. (Laughter.)

Mr. KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mr. Speaker said the other day that in connection with cut motions general questions can be discussed.

Sir, in these three years' working we have got only—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think, general questions can be discussed for certain purpose. But you must be relevant.

Mr. KSHETRA NATH SINHA: Sir, I would like to cite one or two instances as to how injustice is being done to us everywhere.

Sir, with regard to the appointment of school teachers, I may say that in Mymensingh 4,092 Muslim teachers were appointed.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Sir, I am afraid, the Court of Wards do not appoint school teachers.

Mr. KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: Sir, when the Hon'ble Minister is too much tired of hearing this, I am not going to deal with this matter. But I would lay another very serious matter before the Hon'ble Minister which is the concern of his own department. Sir, I shall give a concrete instance. There are in the whole province 135 Court of Wards estates. Out of that 135 only 13 or 14 are in the district of Rangpur, and the biggest zamindars are under the Court of Wards. What is the result, Sir? We in Rangpur district—Muslims and Scheduled Castes—are all tenants of zamindars. But I am not going to speak about my strong Muslim brothers. I am going to speak about my own community. In Rangpur district our community is the biggest. But what justice is meted out to us? No service is given to us under the Court of Wards estates to which we are paying our own coins? We are not getting any justice from the Court of Wards. What is the reason? Government will say.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. There is too much noise in the House.

Mr. KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: .....that they have nothing to do with the appointments under the Court of Wards. If that is the answer of the Hon'ble Minister, may I ask why should these estates be under the Court of Wards, and the owners thereof get allowances and expenses from the public revenue? Let these estates be released all at once, if they are not going to abide by the decision of the Government. I challenge the Hon'ble Minister, can he say that a single appointment has been given to the Scheduled Castes in any of the 135 Court of Wards estates? We have tried and tried to remedy this state of things, we have approached the district authorities, we have approached everybody concerned, but what is the result? We have only cried in the wilderness. No justice has been, nor is going to be, done to us. Although the Hon'ble Chief Minister has our interest in his heart and is very much sympathetic towards us, I may say that he has practically done nothing to remedy this grievance of ours. May I ask the Hon'ble Chief Minister and the Hon'ble Minister in charge of this department, what justice is going to be done to this community? If the Hon'ble Chief Minister is really willing to do something for us, he must be bold enough, he must have the boldness of spirit to do justice to this community, and he must look to us with greater interest.....

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. SHAH SYED COBAM SARWAR HOSSAINI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir: এই বাজেট অধিবেশনের মধ্যে অন্য আমাকে বলিবার সুযোগ দেওয়ায় আপনাকে ধন্যবাদ জানাইতেছি। Sir, ১৯৪০-৪১ ইং সাল পর্যন্ত খরচের জন্য বাংলা সরকার ৭ নং land revenue head এতে voted ও charged মোট ২৯,৮৬,০০০ হাজার টাকার ব্যয় বরাদ্দ মঞ্জুরীর জন্য উপস্থিত করিয়াছেন। এই লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকার সমস্তই, pay of officers, pay of establishment, allowances of officers, contingencies, management, mismanagement প্রভৃতি নামেই খরচ হইয়া যাইবে। ১৯৪০-৪১ ইং এর প্রস্তুত Budget বহিখানি ধীর-স্থিরভাবে পড়িয়া ও আলোচনা করিয়া বুঝিতে পারিলাম গভর্ণমেণ্ট এখনও আমলাতান্ত্রিক নীতিতেই তাহার ব্যয় বরাদ্দ করিয়া আসিতেছেন। গভর্ণমেণ্ট এখনও সম্পূর্ণরূপে মিত-ব্যয়ী এবং গণতান্ত্রিক বাজেট করিতে পারেন নাই। জনপ্রিয় মন্ত্রীসভার দেশের জন্য, জনসাধারণের স্বার্থ ও সুবিধা রক্ষার জন্য যথেষ্ট আগ্রহ, আকাঙ্খা আছে তাহা আমরা বিশেষভাবে অবগত আছি। দেশপ্রিয় "হক-মন্ত্রীসভা" জনসাধারণের মঙ্গলার্থে ভূমি-রাজস্ব আইনের অনেক সংশোধন করিয়াছেন এইজন্য হক-মন্ত্রীসভা দেশবাসীর ধন্যবাদের পাত্র। কিন্তু অনেক গবেষণার দ্বারা ইহাই আমার দৃঢ়বিশ্বাস হইয়াছে যে পর্যন্ত বাজেট-নীতি বিদেশী I.C.S. প্রভাব মুক্ত না হইবে এবং জনসাধারণের প্রতিনিধীর আয়ত্বাধীন না আসিবে সেইপর্যন্ত বাজেট মিতব্যয় ও গণতান্ত্রিক হইতে পারিবে না।

Sir, এই বাজেটের একটী সুবৃহৎ অংশ, যদি ব্যাপকভাবে চিন্তা করি, বাজেটের সমুদয় টাকাই এই প্রদেশের চাষীসম্প্রদায়ের হাড়-ভাঙ্গা পরিশ্রম দ্বারাই উৎপন্ন হইয়া নানাভাবে নানাদিক হইতে সরকারী তহবিলে জমা হইয়াছে ও হইবে। দেশের মেরুদণ্ড কৃষক সম্প্রদায়ের আর্থিক অবস্থার উপরই Millioneer, Banker, জমিদার, মহাজন, ব্যবসায়ি, ব্যারিষ্টার, উকিল, মোক্তার, ডাক্তার, প্রভৃতি সকল শ্রেণীর ব্যবসায়ির এমন কি স্বয়ং গভর্ণমেণ্টের আর্থিক স্বচ্ছলতা ও অস্বচ্ছলতা সম্পূর্ণভাবে নির্ভর করে। সেই চাষী আজ জমিদারের ও মহাজনের নির্যাতনে অন্ন, বস্ত্র, শিক্ষা ও স্বাস্থ্যহীন হইয়া মরিতে বসিয়াছে। বাংলা সরকারের বর্তমান বাজেট বাবুর্চির ও খানসামার বেতন দিয়াই তহবিল শেষ করিয়াছেন। খাদ্য-দ্রব্যাদির খরচ ও খাইবার লোকের কথা ভুলিয়া গিয়াছেন।

প্রজাসত্ব আইনকে আরও কঠোরভাবে সংশোধন করা প্রয়োজন। এখনও জমিদারগণ নানা উপায়ে প্রজাদের উপর অত্যাচার করিতেছে। আবওয়াব আদায় করিতেছে। নোয়াখালী জেলার সেনবাগ, বসুমগঞ্জ, লক্ষ্মীপুর, রায়পুর, সুধারাম, ও রামগঞ্জ প্রভৃতি থানার বিভিন্ন গ্রামে জমিদারগণ এখনও ছলে, বলে, কৌশলে আবওয়াব আদায় করিতেছে।

Sir, এই দেশ কৃষিজীবি, দেশের জমির উর্বরতা-শক্তি অত্যধিক পরিমাণে কমিয়া গিয়াছে। জনসংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি-প্রাপ্ত হওয়ায় জমির অভাব পড়িয়াছে। কৃষকসম্প্রদায়ের আয় অত্যধিক পরিমাণে কমিয়া যাওয়ায় ও ব্যয় অত্যধিক পরিমাণে বৃদ্ধিপ্রাপ্ত হওয়ায় তাহারা জমিদারের বর্তমান rate অনুযায়ী খাজনা দিতে (ইচ্ছা থাকা সত্ত্বেও) অক্ষম হইয়া পড়িয়াছে। পরিণামে কৃষকদের জায়গা-বাকী-খাজনার দায়ে জমিদার নীলাম করিয়া আত্মসাৎ করিতেছে। পৈতৃক ভিটেমাটি হারাইয়া নিঃস্ব, নিরাশ্রয় কৃষক আসাম ও পার্বত্য ত্রিপুরার পাহাড়ে আশ্রয় তালাস করিতেছে। কৃষককে রক্ষা করিতে হইলে জমিদারী প্রথার উচ্ছেদ করিতেই হইবে। অন্ততঃপক্ষে শতকরা ৫০৲ টাকা খাজনা হ্রাস করিতেই হইবে। land revenue report এর প্রতি আমরা চাহিয়া আছি। রিপোর্ট আসিতে এত বিলম্বের কারণ কি? গভর্ণমেণ্টের নিকট জানিতে চাহি। আমি গভর্ণমেণ্টকে এই বলিতেছি যে অতি সত্বর শতকরা পঞ্চাশ টাকার হারে খাজনা হ্রাস করুন।

Sir, আমি আপনার যোগে ১৮২২ সালের ৮ আইনের ও ১১ আইনের সুব্যাপ্তের নীলাম আইন সংশোধনের প্রতি গভর্ণমেন্টের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতেছি। এই আইনটি স্বেচ্ছাচারী ও উৎপীড়নমূলক আইনসমূহের অন্যতম। যেমন ৮ আইনের মর্ম্ম, ৮ আইনের ক্ষমতা-প্রাপ্ত জমিদারের অধিন তালুকদার খাজনা আদায় না করিলে ১৮২২ সালের ৮ আইন অনুযায়ী তালুক নীলাম হইলে তালুকদারের অধিন সিকমী হাওলা প্রভৃতি সমস্ত কায়েমীস্বত্ব রহিত হইয়া জমিদারের খাস দখলভুক্ত হয়। সমুদয় প্রজা সর্ব্বহারা হয়। Sir অনেক স্থলে তালুকদারের অধীন প্রজা-বৃন্দ খাজনা আদায় করিয়া থাকে। কিন্তু তালুকদার জমিদারের খাজনা বাকী ফেলে। কোন স্থলে জমিদার ও তালুকদার একমত হইয়া ঐ প্রকার ৮ আইনের নীলাম করাইয়া প্রজাদিগকে সর্ব্বস্বান্ত করিয়া থাকে ইহাতে প্রজাগণ খাজনা দিয়াও সর্ব্বহারা হয়। রামের অপরাধের জন্য শ্যামকে শাস্তিভোগ করিতে হয়। ২২ সালের ৮ আইনের অতি সত্বর সংশোধন হওয়া প্রয়োজন। ১১ আইন অনুযায়ী কালেক্টারীর তোজীভুক্ত সম্পত্তি খাজনা অনাদায়ে নীলাম হইয়া থাকে। নীলামের পর ঐ সম্পত্তির প্রজাদের অবস্থাও অনুরূপ। সেইহেতু ১১ আইনও সংশোধন হওয়া প্রয়োজন।

Sir, আমি খাসমহাল সম্পর্কে ২।৪টি কথা বলিয়া বসিতেছি। খাসমহাল হইতে প্রকৃত-চাষী জমি পাইতেছে না। নদী-ভাঙ্গা অধিবাসীগণও জমি পাইতেছে না। জমি পাইতেছে তাহারা যাহাদের জমির অভাব নাই। তাহারাই কলে-কৌশলে খাসমহালের জমি লাভ করিতেছে তাহাতে ধাবার খাজনা ও সেলামীর হার অত্যন্ত অধিক। বে-আবাদি জঙ্গলে-পরিপূর্ণ জমি এই অত্যাধিক খাজনা ও সেলামীতে বন্দোবস্ত লইয়া কোন চাষী ভোগদখল করিতে পারিবে না, যে পর্য্যন্ত সেলামী উচ্ছেদ ও খাজনা হ্রাস না হয়। খাসমহালের কর্ম্মচারীদের ব্যবহারে কোন খাসমহালে কৃষক-প্রজার দাবী যেন উপেক্ষিত ও উৎপীড়িত না হয় এবং তাহারা যেন জমি পায়, ও টর্নিদের দ্বারায় প্রতারিত না হয় সেদিকে আমি গভর্ণমেন্টের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতেছি।

Sir, খাসমহাল জমির খাজনা হ্রাস করিতেই হইবে। সেলামী উঠাইয়া দিতেই হইবে, তদন্যথায় কৃষক-প্রজা জমি পাইলেও ভোগদখল করিতে পারিবে না। নোয়াখালী জেলার খাস-মহাল জমি প্রকৃত কৃষকপ্রজাগণ পাইতেছে না। কলে, কৌশলে, টর্নিগণই জমি পাইতেছে। রায়পুর, সুধারাম, লক্ষ্মীপুর, রামগতি, হাতিয়া, সন্দীপ প্রভৃতি থানাসমূহ নদী আক্রান্ত। এই থানাগুলির নদী-ভাঙ্গা সর্ব্বহারা অধিবাসীগণ স্ত্রী, পুত্র, কন্যা নিয়ে কত কষ্টে কাল ও জীবিকা নির্ব্বাহ করে তাহা বক্তৃতায় প্রকাশ করা অসম্ভব। না দেখিলে বুঝা যায় না। আমি সুধারাম থানার সুবৃহৎ প্রসিদ্ধ গুল্লাখানীনামক নদী-বিধ্বস্ত গ্রামের ভগ্নাবশেষটুকু দেখিবার সুযোগ পাইয়াছি। এই গ্রামের ১৫ হাজার লোকের বিপন্নাবস্থা দেখিয়াছি। ছেলে, মেয়ে, নিয়ে বাড়ী-ঘরের অভাবে কত জীর্ণাবস্থায় জীবিকানির্ব্বাহ করিতেছে। ইহাদের মধ্যে সকলেই জমির জন্যে খাসমহালে পুনঃ পুনঃ দরখাস্ত করিয়াও ব্যর্থকাম হইয়াছে। কেহ কেহ পাইয়াছে বটে খাজনা দিতে না পারায় ১ বৎসর পরেই নিলাম হইয়া গিয়াছে। আমি যতদূর জানি অন্ততঃ পক্ষে ১৯০৬ ইং হইতে এই নদী-ভাঙ্গা দুস্থগণ তদানিন্তন কালেক্টর ও খাসমহাল অফিসারদের নিকট নিজেদের অভাব-অনটন ও দুরবস্থার কথা পুনঃ পুনঃ জানাইয়াও কোন সহানুভূতি পায় নাই। "অভাগা যদ্যপি যেদিকে চায় সাগর শুকাইয়া যায়", তদানিন্তন খাসমহাল কর্ম্মচারীগণ মহামান্য সম্রাটের দুস্থপ্রজার রক্তের বিনিময়ে সম্রাটের তহবিলে টাকা জমাইয়া নিজ প্রমোশন ও বাহাদুরী আদায়েরই চেষ্টা করিয়াছে। Sir, মহামান্য সম্রাটের পুত্রতুল্য অভাবগ্রস্থ দুস্থ কৃষক-প্রজা ও নদী-ভাঙ্গা দুস্থ প্রজাদিগকে রক্ষা করিবার কোন চেষ্টা করেন নাই। পরন্তু উপেক্ষা ও উৎপীড়নই করিয়াছেন। এখনও সেই নীতির অবসান হয় না। Sir, আমি আপনার যোগে মাননীয় প্রধান মন্ত্রীমহোদয় মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমহোদয়ের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতেছি।

সার্টিফিকেট-প্রথা দ্বারাও প্রজাগণ নির্যাতিত হইতেছে। বিশেষ করিয়া খাসমহালে সার্টিফিকেটের উপর সার্টিফিকেট জারী করিয়া প্রজাদের নিশ্বাস ফেলিবার অবসর টুকুও আজ দিচ্ছে না। এই সার্টিফিকেট-প্রথার রহিত করার প্রয়োজন হইয়া পড়িয়াছে। আমি আপনার যোগে মাননীয় মন্ত্রমহোদয়ের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতেছি।

Mr. AULAD HOSSAIN KHAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to congratulate the Government and the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department for all they have done, particularly with regard to the amendment of the Bengal Tenancy Act. But I may tell them in this connection that all that has been done is not sufficient. Many more things are still to be done. To-day I will point out only a few important points; (1) Transfers before the amendment of the Bengal Tenancy Act in 1928 are not recognised by the landlords and the result is that (*a*) they sometimes realise rent from their old tenants or the transferors although they are no longer in possession of the land. (*b*) Besides that in many cases they seek to make the land *khas* as they refuse to recognise the tranferee's interest. Thus the tenants are sometimes put to great difficulty and trouble. (*c*) In some cases the zamindar in collusion with the transferor get rent-decrees without making the transferees party and manage to get their holding sold for arrears of rent. I should therefore suggest that steps should be taken so that these transfers may be automatically recognised by the landlords.

In the second place, after the abolition of *abwabs*, the zemindars have begun to insist on payment of interest or compensate for default of payment of rent within the quarter which they never demanded if rents were paid within the year. It is not possible for poor tenants to pay the rent in 4 *kists*. They generally pay once in a year after their harvests either of jute, paddy or any other main crop. This causes a very great hardship to the poor tenants. They can easily pay rent in the month of Aswin or in Magh after selling jute or paddy. But they can hardly do so in the month of Ashar or Chaitra. Thus if zemindars realise rent after the harvest season tenants can easily pay rent and at the same time they will not have to pay an additional amount in the shape of interest So although *abwab* has been abolished yet poor tenants are forced to pay equal sums and even more in some cases. I should like to draw the attention of Government to this matter. In the third place I would ask the Government to see that the report of the Rent Reduction Committee is soon published and action be taken as soon as possible so that iniquity in the rate of rent is soon removed.

I would also request the Government to see that the report of the Flood Commission be published as soon as possible. The people have been in suspense as it is said that the report if acted upon will bring in a revolution in the land revenue system of Bengal.

Last but not the least, I would like to draw the attention of Government to the miserable plight of the fishermen. It is needless for me to tell this House how they have got to labour hard, sometimes even at the risk of their life, how middlemen are growing richer and richer at their cost, but the poor fishermen are starving with their family. They have no food to eat, no cloth to put on, and no house to live in. So it is necessary that something should be done for them. I understand that the Special Officer appointed by Government to enquire into the condition of fishermen has submitted his report. I would like to request Government to take immediate action in the matter.

The House was then adjourned for 15 minutes.

(After adjournment.)

Maulvi MD. HASANUZZAMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir: সুজলা, সুফলা, শস্যশ্যামলা বাংলা আজ অজলা, অদালা, অজন্মা বাংলাতে পরিণত হইয়াছে। বাংলার হাজার হাজার পরিবার আজ বাড়ী-ছাড়া, ঘর-হারা, পেটে ভাত নাই, পিঠে কাপড় নাই। চেহারার লাবণ্যতা নাই। আছে বলিতে কিছুই নাই। কেহ বাঁশ তলায়, কেহ গাছ তলায়, কেহ কেহ রাস্তার ফুটপাতের উপর কালাতিপাত করিতেছে। রোগ ব্যাধির তাড়নায় অস্থির। উপযুক্ত চিকিৎসার ব্যবস্থা নাই। ইউনিয়নে ইউনিয়নে ডাক্তারখানা না থাকায় ও গ্রামে গ্রামে পানীয় জলের ব্যবস্থা না থাকায় সর্বহারা কৃষকগণের দুঃখের সীমা নাই। Coalition Partyর মেম্বরগণের প্রচেষ্টায় "হক-মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী" কংগ্রেস ও তাহাদের একান্ত অনুগত কৃষক-প্রজা-নামধারী মেম্বরদলের শত শত বাধা বিঘ্নের প্রতি ভ্রূক্ষেপ না করিয়া দেশের মঙ্গলের জন্য প্রজাসত্ব সালিশী বোর্ড ও মহাজনী আইন ইত্যাদি করিয়া মরণমুখী কৃষক সমাজকে কতকটা বাঁচাইয়াছেন সত্য, কিন্তু দেশের দাবীর তুলনায় ইহা কিছুই নহে। অত্যধিক খাজনার চাপে ও অত্যাচারে জমিদারের নানা ভাবের অত্যাচরে দরিদ্র কৃষক-সম্প্রদায় আজ সর্বহারা হইয়া পড়িয়াছে। কৃষক বলিতে শত করা ৯৫ জন মুসলমানকেই বুঝায় ও জমিদার ও মহাজন বলিতে শত করা ৯৫ জন বর্ণ-হিন্দুকেই বুঝায়। যে মুসলমান একদিন শিক্ষা, জ্ঞান ও পরিমার দিক দিয়া উন্নতির উচ্চ শিখরে উঠিয়াছিল এবং যাহারা এ দেশের বাদশাহ ও মালিক ছিল আজ তাঁরা অত্যধিক খাজনার চাপে ও মহাজনের দেনার দায়ে সর্বহারা হইয়া রাস্তার কুলী সাজিয়াছে। আমাদের বিরোধীদল মুখে বেশ দরদ আওড়াইয়া থাকেন, কিন্তু মুসলমান ও কৃষকদের কোন প্রকৃত উপকারের কথা আনিলে কার্যতঃ তাহার বিপরীত ভাব দেখান। আমরা এ সমস্ত কৃত্রিম-ভাব বুঝিতে পারিয়াছি। আর বেশী দিন এ ভাবে ধোকা দেওয়া চলিবে না।

প্রজাসত্ব আইন সংশোধন দ্বারা যদিও সুদের হার কমাইয়া দেওয়া হইয়াছে কিন্তু জমিদার ও Court of Wards এক-ভাবে সুদের সুদ আদায় করিতেছেন। ৪ বৎসরের খাজনা বাকী থাকিলে এক বৎসরের পরিশোধ করিতে ৵ আনা হিসাবে তোলাতে ।৹ আনা আদায় করিতেছেন। তদোপরী তহরী ও তালবান ত পূর্বেকার মতই আদায় করিতেছেন। Court of Wards এর আমলাগণ পর্যন্ত আবওয়াব আদায় করিতেছেন। কোনও প্রতিকার নাই। কুমিল্লা জেনারেল ম্যানেজারের অধীনস্থ ডিহিগুলিতে এখনো আবোয়াব ও নজরাদি আদায় হইতেছে বলিয়া শুনা যায়। চাকুরীর দিক দিয়াও মুসলমানের প্রতি তাঁহার সহানুভূতি দেখা যায় না। Charity fund এর টাকা কোথায় ব্যয় হয় জানাই দুষ্কর।

Sir, Land Revenue Commission এর report এখনও বাহির হয় নাই। কবে এ রিপোর্ট বাহির হইবে আমি অদ্যকার উত্তরে বিভাগীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের নিকট জানিতে চাই। প্রজার খাজানা অন্ততঃপক্ষে শতকরা ৫০৲ টাকা মাপ করিয়া না দিলে দরিদ্র প্রজার অস্তিত্ব বেশী দিন থাকিবে না। Rent Reduction Enquiry Committeeর রিপোর্ট এখনও বাহির হইল না। জমির উর্বরতা শক্তি ক্রমশঃ হ্রাস পাইতেছে; কিন্তু খাজনার হার কমিতেছে না বরঞ্চ নানা ভাবে এখনও বাড়িতেছে। সহসাই খাজনার হার কমাইবার জন্য ও অন্যান্য বিভাগের ব্যয় কমাইয়া বিনা করে প্রাইমারী শিক্ষা সারা বাংলায় প্রবর্ত্তন করিবার জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্টকে অনুরোধ করিতেছি। আমার Constituencyর চৌদ্দ-গ্রাম আগর মহারাজার প্রজাগণ নানা-ভাবের নূতন করে প্রপীড়িত হইতেছে বলিয়া শুনা যায়। দাবীর টাকা দিলেও স্থানীয় নায়েব ও তহশীলদারগণের চক্রান্তে জমি পুনঃ বন্দোবস্ত না করিতে পারায় শত-শত পরিবার ধ্বংশ হইতেছে। পাহাড়ে নূতন নূতন বন কর বসাইয়া বিশেষ অসুবিধায় ফেলিতেছে। সত্বর Political Agent যোগে স্থানীয় তদন্ত-ক্রমে সর্ব্ব-সাধারণকে অন্যায় অত্যাচার হইতে বাঁচাইবার জন্য অনুরোধ করিতেছি।

Sir, Certificate প্রথা উঠাইয়া দেওয়াতে সর্ব্বসাধারণের যথেষ্ট উপকার হইয়াছে। উহা চিরতরে উঠাইয়া দেওয়ার জন্য অনুরোধ জানাইতেছি।

পুনঃ সার্ভে ও Settlement ফরিদপুরে ও বরিশালে হওয়ার প্রস্তাব দেখিয়া অবাক হইলাম। লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা একাজে অযথা ব্যয় না করিয়া উক্ত টাকা জনহিতকর কাজে ব্যয় করিবার জন্য অনুরোধ করিতেছি।

পল্লীবাসী জাগিতেছে ও জাগিয়াছে তাহাদিগকে ভুলিলে চলিবে না। তাহারা তাহাদের দাবী বুঝিয়া লইবার জন্য বদ্ধপরিকর হইতেছে।

Mr. RASIK LAL BISWAS: সহ-সভাপতি মহাশয়, রেভিনিউ মিনিষ্টার মহাশয়ের success এর জন্য আনন্দ প্রকাশ কোরছি। Success তার Land revenue policyর জন্য নয়, Upper House এর ইলেকশনে জয়-লাভের পলিসির জন্য। Land revenue policy যাহা প্রবর্ত্তিত হয়েছে তার কৃতকার্য্যতার যদি আনন্দ প্রকাশ কোরতে হয় তাহলে সেটা কোয়ালিশন পার্টির দৃঢ়তার জন্যই। তাঁর ল্যাণ্ড রেভিনিউ পলিসির কথা এই যে যেভাবে ক্যাবিনেটের মেম্বররা (মন্ত্রীরা) কাজ কোরছেন, এবং যাঁরা সেটা পরিচালনা কোরছেন তাদের দ্বারা আমরা বেশী কিছু অগ্রগতি আশা কোরতে পারি না। তাছাড়া নিজে তিনি একজন জমিদার। জমিদারদের সুখ সুবিধা বাড়াইয়া দেওয়াই তাঁর পক্ষে স্বাভাবিক। এবং তাঁর আগেকার কার্য্যাবলিতে সেই ভাবই পরিস্ফুট ছিল। জানি না আজ কোন সোনার কাঠি স্পর্শে তার মতি-গতি এখন পরিবর্ত্তিত হোয়ে কৃষকদের মঙ্গলের জন্য এইরূপ অগ্রসর হোচ্ছে। আমাদের দেশে আজ-কাল জমির (land) এর যেরূপ মূল্য তাতে land policy যদি ঠিকমত পরিচালনা করা যায় তাহলে এই জমি থেকেই বাংলাদেশের মুক্তি আসতে পারে। বাংলার জমি সুজলা, সুফলা হোয়ে বাঙ্গালীর বেশী সুখের কারণ যে হোতে পারে নাই তার কারণ জমি সম্বন্ধে গভর্ণমেণ্ট যে নীতির বার-বার পরিচয় দিয়েছেন সেটা জনসাধারণের সহায়ক হয় নাই। বৃটিশ গভর্ণমেণ্ট এ-দেশে অনেক অন্যায় কাজ কোরেছেন, তার ভিতর আমরা দেখতে পাই সব-চেয়ে বেশী অন্যায় কোরেছেন এই যে দেশের যারা rent collector ছিলো তাদেরই দেশের জমির মালিক কোরে দিয়েছেন। এবং তাদের মালিক করার ফলে তারাই আজ মনে কোরছেন যে তাহারাই সর্ব্বে-সর্ব্বা, দেশের যে কোটি কোটি প্রজাবর্গ, যাদের সুখ-সুবিধা যুগিয়ে দেওয়া তাদের কর্ত্তব্য, সে কর্ত্তব্য না কোরে আত্ম-সুখেই রত ছিলেন, প্রজার কোন সুখ-সুবিধার দিকে লক্ষ্য কোরতে পারেন নাই এবং প্রজার জন্য কিছু ভাববার জমিদাররা অবসর পান নাই। আমাদের দেশের land system এর কিছু পরিবর্ত্তন কোরতে হলে জমিদারী system এর পরিবর্ত্তন আমাদের প্রথমেই

করা প্রয়োজন। তবে যে ভাবে আমাদের বর্তমানে এসেমব্লির কাজ চোলছে তাতে জমিদারী abolition এর দিক দিয়ে কাজ অনেকটা এগিয়ে এসেছে। কারণ নজরানা অর্থাৎ Land-lord's fee একদম উঠে গেছে এবং সুদের খরচাও অর্দ্ধেক কমে গেছে। আবোয়াব বন্ধ হয়েছে বটে, কিন্তু এ-দিক দিয়ে আরও একটু কড়া ব্যবস্থা, strict rule হওয়া দরকার যাতে সম্পূর্ণরূপে এটা বন্ধ হয়। সার্টিফিকেট-প্রথাটাও প্রায়ই বন্ধ হয়েছে কিন্তু সেটাও পুরোপুরি বন্ধ হওয়াই প্রয়োজন। আর খাজনা বা rent decree তে সেই জমি ছাড়া অন্য সম্পত্তি বিক্রয় হোতে না পারে সে-দিক দিয়েও আইন হোতে চোলেছে। (Mr. ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR : এটা বুঝি এখনো Coalition পার্টির সভ্যেরা জানে না) কিন্তু এখনো আরো কাজ বাকি আছে। Court of Wards abolition কোরতে হবে। দেশের যে সমস্ত অপদার্থ জমিদারেরা নিজেদের estate চালাতে পারে না তারা গভর্ণমেন্টের আওতায় এসে নিজেদের অপদার্থতা ঢেকে রাখছে—এটা সহ্য করা যায় না। Revenue sale law এবং Patni sale law যাহাতে কড়াকড়িভাবে কার্য্যকরী হয় তাহা করা দরকার। Agricultural income ধরা চাই এবং খাজনার হার অর্দ্ধেক কমান চাই। তাহলে জমিদারী প্রথা উঠাইবার পন্থা সহজ হয়ে পড়বে। এখন যে Rent Committee বোসেছে গভর্ণমেন্ট নিশ্চয়ই----

(Here the member having reached his time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to speak a few words with regard to the khas mahal estates in the Noakhali district. We all know that there has been remission of rent in those estates every year to the extent of one lakh and more in the Noakhali district alone. There has been failure of crops year after year on account of frequent inundations and also on account of other natural causes. The reason that has been assigned is that there has not been proper drainage and erection of *bunds* wherever necessary. I pray that Government should take immediate steps for the erection of *bunds* wherever necessary and making sufficient provision for drainage. Then it will be found that Government revenue to the extent of Rs. 1 lakh or more will be saved every year. As regards the settlement of land, it has been found and one of the previous speakers have already said that lands are not settled with the proper persons—I mean, with the *bona fide* cultivators—but with middle class men and richer people. It is the latter class of people who get settlement of khas mahal lands in preference to real cultivators. The Hon'ble Minister knows very well that in Noakhali, particularly in Sandwip, Hatia, Charbadu and some parts of Sudharam thana, there has been erosion of khas mahal properties, so much so, that a large number of khas mahal tenants have become absolutely landless. Sir; these people do not get settlement of lands on account of the fact that they cannot pay *salami* to the extent of 4 or 5 times the rent. Mr. Stewart who was appointed a Special Officer has recommended that in such cases, namely, where lands of khas mahal tenants have been washed away, their claim for getting settlement of lands should be favourably considered and that a nominal rate of *salami* should be assessed in their cases and their prayers should be given preference to any other case that may come

up for the settlement of lands. I appeal to the Hon'ble the Revenue Minister to see that the *bona fide* khas mahal tenants do get settlement of lands on payment of a nominal *salami* in preference to other persons, namely, persons whose lands have not been washed away by erosion.

Sir, in this connection, I beg to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to one fact, namely, that in the khas mahal estates, although Government from time to time grant remission when there is failure of crops, in the zemindary estates the tenants are absolutely helpless. They do not get any remission on the plea that the zemindars also do not get any remission of the revenue from Government. I suggest that Government should give direction to zemindars to give remission in proper and deserving cases to their tenants and Government should also in their turn grant proportionate reduction of their revenue to the zemindars.

Sir, the next point that is uppermost in my mind is about the shifting of the Noakhali town. The evacuation of the Noakhali town has been hanging since 1913. A committee which was appointed in 1921 recommended that the town should be shifted to Majdi—a place five miles from the Noakhali town. Land was acquired and raised and tanks were excavated, but in the meantime, the erosion stopped and the question of the immediate shifting of the town was abandoned, because a *char* was formed to the south of the town. But some time afterwards, the *char* was washed away and in 1933 another committee was appointed which recommended that the town should be shifted immediately to Majdi and following that recommendation, *kutcha* houses were constructed and some offices were removed there. ..... (Here the member reached the time-limit and was granted one minute to finish his speech.) It was decided that in the winter of 1937 the courts would be held there. There was some agitation against the idea and Government cancelled that order. After that in 1938 the Hon'ble the Chief Minister accompanied by the Hon'ble Revenue Minister and the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy went there and decided on expert opinion that Majdi was quite unsuitable and so appointed another committee to investigate into the matter and submit a report, suggesting a place where the town should be shifted. The report was submitted recommending that the town should be shifted to Begumganj. Now, Sir, although the report was submitted more than a year ago, Government have not come to any decision on the matter. People are absolutely in suspense. Sir, may I humbly and in all humility ask Government how long they will keep the people of Noakhali in suspense and in this miserable condition? You know, Sir, that in 1937 and also in 1939, there were heavy floods due to which the whole town was submerged under water for four consecutive days. The present town has became absolutely unfit for human habitation. The Hon'ble Revenue

Minister has himself seen how the people of Noakhali are huddled together in the town and in what miserable condition they are living. The most thickly populated quarter of the town, I mean the Montierghona quarter, where about 500 families live is threatened by the Noakhali *khal* and this area may be washed away at any moment. Sir, I do not know where these people will go if this part is washed away. I would appeal to the Hon'ble Minister to come immediately to a final decision with regard to the shifting of the town either to Begumganj or to any other suitable place. In the meantime, I would request him to adopt some protective measures so that the people may not be left in a helpless condition by the erosion of the *khal*. It has been suggested that the town may be saved by cutting a *khal* in the Boruigona Pargana side and diverting the current of the Noakhali Khal through that *khal* and I request the Hon'ble Minister to take note of this suggestion and take necessary action to give effect to it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I may announce that there are yet many speakers who like to speak. So, I hope, you will take two or three minutes each.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, may I know whether Irrigation will be taken up to-night?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot say that now.

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED: মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, আমি আমার বন্ধু গিয়াসুদ্দিন সাহেবের খাজনা কমানোর প্রস্তাব সমর্থন কোরে কটি কথা বোলতে চাই। আজকে মাননীয় মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী এবং আমার কোয়ালিশন (Coalition) দলের মেম্বর বন্ধুরা গর্ব কোরছেন এবং বাংলার দরিদ্র কৃষক-প্রজাদের বোলছেন—আমরা তোমাদের রক্ষক, আমরা তোমাদের রক্ষা কোরব। কিন্তু তাঁদের কার্য্যের দ্বারা প্রমাণিত হোচ্ছে যে তাঁরা সেই শ্রেণীর রক্ষক যেমন শুকনা মাছের নৌকায় বিড়াল পাহারাদার নিযুক্ত করিলে সেই বিড়াল মাছকে যেরূপ রক্ষা কোরে থাকে আজকে তাঁরা বাংলার দরিদ্র কৃষক-প্রজাদের ঠিক সেই ভাবেই রক্ষা কোরছেন। আজকে দেখছি বাংলার পল্লী অঞ্চলে কৃষক-প্রজারা দিনের পর দিন ভিটা-মাটি শূন্য হোয়ে যাচ্ছে, রোগে, অনাহারে দিনের পর দিন লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক মৃত্যুর কবলে পতিত হোচ্ছে। কলকারখানাতেও ঠিক এই ভাবেই শ্রমিকের দল লাঞ্ছিত, পদদলিত হোচ্ছে। এই সমস্ত ব্যাপারের প্রতিকারের ব্যবস্থা না কোরে আজকে তাঁরা বুক ফুলিয়ে গর্ব কোরছে আর বোলছে—আমরা তোমাদের রক্ষা কোর্ব। এই পরিষদের প্রায় সমস্ত সদস্য বিশেষ কোরে যাঁরা পল্লী অঞ্চল থেকে নির্বাচিত হোয়ে এসেছেন তাঁরা বিগত নির্বাচনের সময় মিষ্টি কথায় জনসাধারণকে ভুলিয়ে ভোট নিয়েছিলেন। কেউ বোলেছিলেন খাজনা কমিয়ে প্রতি একরে ছয়-আনা কোরবেন, কেহ বা জমিদারি প্রথাই তুলে দিবেন ইত্যাদি নানা রকম স্তোক বাক্যে গ্রামবাসীদের ভুলিয়ে ছিলেন। নির্বাচনের পর যখন মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী গঠিত হোল এবং খাজনার ভার যখন বর্দ্ধমান-বিভাগের হিন্দু-মুসলমান জমিদারদের ভোটে নির্বাচিত প্রতিনিধি ও লক্ষপতি জমিদার মাননীয় সার বিজয় প্রসাদের (Sir Bijoy Prosad) উপর পড়ল তখনই বুঝতে পারলাম তিনি বাংলার দরিদ্র কৃষক-প্রজার খাজনার হার কতটা কমিয়ে দেবেন। আজকে (Coalition) কোয়ালিশন দলের বন্ধুরা লম্বা লম্বা রচনা পাঠ

কোরছেন। আমি বোলতে চাই এই কিনাগুলি তাঁরা এখানে পাঠ না কোরে ও এই পরিষদের মূল্যবান সময় নষ্ট না কোরে যদি মন্ত্রীদের ঘরে কিম্বা তাঁদের দলের ঘরোয়া বৈঠকে পাঠ কোর্তেন তাহোলে ভাল হোত। কাজেই এখানে যে খাজনা কমানোর প্রস্তাব উঠেছে আমি তা সর্ব্বান্তকরণে সমর্থন করি। খাজনা কমাবার প্রস্তাব যখনই এসেছে তখনই (Coalition) কোয়ালিশন দলের মেম্বারারা তার বিরুদ্ধে ভোট দিয়েছেন। তাঁরাই এখন লম্বা লম্বা বুলি আওড়াচ্ছেন, আর বোলছেন আমরাই দরিদ্র কৃষক-প্রজাদের বন্ধু কিন্তু আজ ভোটের সময়ে এই সব লম্বা বুলির পরীক্ষা হইয়া যাইবে।

Maulvi ABDUR RAZZAK: সভাপতি মহোদয়: আমি রেভিনিউর বরাদ্দ সম্বন্ধে বিশেষ কোন আলোচনা না কোরে আপনার যোগে দুইটি কথা ভারপ্রাপ্ত মন্ত্রীবাহাদুরকে জানাতে চাই। এই পরিষদে বহুদিন যাবত খাজনার হার হ্রাস করার জন্য জল্পনা-কল্পনা চলিতেছে, সেই উদ্দেশ্যে একটি Rent Reduction Committeeও গঠন করা হইয়াছে। মন্ত্রীগণ বাংলার শাসন-ভার গ্রহণ কালে প্রজাবৃন্দকে আশ্বাস দিয়াছিলেন অতি সত্বর খাজনার হার কমান হইবে। বন্যা-প্রপীড়িত প্রজাগণ আশায় বুক বাঁধিয়া মন্ত্রীবর্গের মুখপানে চাহিয়া রহিয়াছে। বড়ই পরিতাপের বিষয় এই সমস্ত কথা কর্ণগোচর হইল সত্য দুর্ভাগ্যবশতঃ তাহা কার্য্যে পরিণত হইল না। কবির বাক্য অক্ষরে অক্ষরে সত্য হইয়াছে—

যাহা হউক আশা করি বাংলার গভর্ণমেন্ট বেহার গভর্ণমেন্টের ন্যায় বকেয়া খাজনার অর্দ্ধেক পরিমাণ মাফ দিয়া ঋণগ্রস্ত প্রজাদিগকে অতিরিক্ত করের দায় হইতে মুক্তি দিবেন। মহোদয়, বাংলাদেশের নোয়াখালী একটি ক্ষুদ্রতম জেলা। ঐ জেলায় প্রায় ২০ লক্ষ লোকের বসতি। এইবার অকালে ক্রমাগত ১০ দিন যাবত বৃষ্টিপাত হওয়ায় রবি-শস্য সমূলে বিনষ্ট হইয়া গিয়াছে। অনেকে আশা করিয়াছিলেন খেসারী ও মরিচ ইত্যাদি বিক্রয় করিয়া তামাদি রক্ষা করিবেন। সেই আশা নৈরাশ্যে পরিণত হইয়াছে। গত বারের বন্যা অপেক্ষা এই বারের ক্ষতির পরিমাণ অনেক অধিক। কোন নিরপেক্ষ কমিটি অনুসন্ধান করিলে জানিতে পারিবেন এই জেলায় কত লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা ক্ষতি হইয়াছে। আউস ধান্য সময় মত বুনাইতে পারিবে না বলিয়া সকলের ধারণা। সময়ের অভাবে পাট বুনা একেবারে হইবে না। গত পৌষ ধান্যের ফসলও আশানুরূপ জন্মায় নাই। এখনই ১২ আনা লোকে খোরাকি কেনা আরম্ভ হইয়াছে। কি করিয়া জেলাবাসী এইবার তামাদি রক্ষা করিবে সেই চিন্তায় হতবুদ্ধি হইয়া পড়িয়াছে। আশা করি সরকার বাহাদুর সুবন্দোবস্ত করিতে যত্নবান হইবেন। অন্যথায় জেলাবাসীদের দুর্দ্দশার সীমা থাকিবে না। তাহাদের ধ্বংস অনিবার্য্য কারণ নদীর প্রকোপে জেলার এক-তৃতিয়াংশ ভূমি জলমগ্ন হওয়ায় লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক গৃহহারা হইয়া রাস্তায়, ঘাটে অনাহারে গাছ তলায় বসতি করিতেছে। ইতিপূর্ব্বে নদী-প্রপীড়িত লোক দ্বারা একটি deputation গঠন করিয়া মাননীয় প্রধান মন্ত্রী এবং Revenue Ministerএর সমীপে পাঠান হইয়াছে এবং বলা হইয়াছে যে এই সমস্ত লোকদিগকে চরের জমি বিনা সেলামিতে বন্দোবস্ত দেওয়া হউক। মন্ত্রী বাহাদুরও আশ্বাস দিয়াছেন——

(Here the member having reached his time-limit resumed his seat.)

Maulvi ABDUL HAKIM: মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, যে বাংলাদেশকে সোনার বাংলা বলা হোতো, যে বাংলাদেশে সায়েস্তা খাঁর আমলে টাকায় আট মণ চাল বিক্রয় হোতো, সেই বাংলাদেশে আজ কৃষক-প্রজাদের কি দুর্দ্দশা তাহা ভাষায় বর্ণনা করা কঠিন। তার মূল কারণ অনুসন্ধান কোরলে দেখা যায় মহাজনের জুলুম এবং জমিদারের জুলুমই তার প্রধান কারণ। মহাজনের জুলুমের অবসান করা হোয়েছে, আইনের দ্বারা; কিন্তু জমিদারের জুলুমের বিষয় কিছুই এখনো পর্য্যন্ত করা গেল না। জমিদার খাজনা আদায়ের জন্য কি-ভাবে জুলুম কোরে আসছে, তা শুনতে চক্ষু তাজুতে ওঠে। আমাদের জমিদারদের যে সমস্ত খাজনা গভর্ণমেন্টকে

দেন তার কত গুণ বেশী যে প্রজার কাছ থেকে আদায় করেন তার ইয়ত্তা নাই। তারপর তাঁরা খাজনাই যে কত বৃদ্ধি কোরেছেন তারই বা হিসাব কে রাখে! জমিদারগণ বোলে থাকেন যে মাত্র ।৹ আনা খাজনা বাড়ানো হোয়েছে। কিন্তু ফ্রাউড্ কমিশনের তদন্তের ফলে, এবং Rent Enquiry Commission এর মেম্বরগণ যে পর্য্যন্ত তদন্ত কোরেছেন ময়মনসিংহ জেলায় Enquiry শেষ হোয়েছে; তাতে দেখা যায় খাজনা ৩৲ টাকা থেকে ৩০৲ টাকা পর্য্যন্ত একর প্রতি বৃদ্ধি হোয়েছে। আমার মুনিব মহারাজা শশিকান্ত তিনি আমার মুনিব হোলেও আমি নির্ভয়ে বোলবো—যে তাঁর জমিদারীতে প্রতি একরে ১৬৲ টাকা পর্য্যন্ত খাজনা বাড়ানো হোয়েছে। এখন আমরা আর মুনিব মানবো না, এখানে আজ আমরা স্পষ্ট কথা বলবার জন্যই এসেছি। কারণ স্পষ্ট কথা না বোল্‌লে কোন কাজ হবে না। (A MEMBER: না হয় নাই বা হোলো) তাছাড়া প্রজা-মনিব সম্পর্ক এখন আর পালন কোরতেও কেউ চায় না, এই রকম——

(Here the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Maulvi MD. AMIR ALI MIA: মাননীয় ডেপুটি স্পীকার সাহেব, আমরা দেশের গরীব কৃষক-প্রজাদের প্রতিনিধি ও প্রজা-গভর্ণমেন্টের পরিচালকগণ, বর্ত্তমানে চিনির দর ১২৲ বারো টাকা মণ আছে বলিয়া আশা করি আমাদের গভর্ণমেন্ট আখ যাহাতে প্রতি মণ এক টাকা দরে মিলওয়ালারা নেন ইহার চেষ্টা করিবেন।

আর জমির খাজনা বর্ত্তমানে যে হারে জমিদারগণ আদায় করিতেছেন তাহা হইতে প্রতি টাকায় বার আনা যাহাতে মাপ দিয়া টাকায় চারি আনা করিয়া আদায় করেন গভর্ণমেন্ট হইতে সেইরূপ আদেশ দেওয়া হোক। কারণ জমিদারগণ জমির খাজনা বহু বেশী হারে আদায় করিতেছেন। এবং তাঁহাদের কর্ম্মচারীগণ বলপূর্ব্বক গরীব প্রজাদের উপর অত্যাচার করিয়াই খাজনা, খরচ ও সুদ আদায় করিয়া থাকে। যাহাতে জমিদারগণের কর্ম্মচারীগণ প্রজাদের উপর অত্যাচার না করিতে পারে তাহার ব্যবস্থা আমাদের গভর্ণমেন্ট সত্বর করুন। ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডের প্রেসিডেন্টগণ অধিকাংশ জমিদারগণের কর্ম্মচারী ও আত্মীয়-স্বজন ও উকিল, মোক্তার ও ডাক্তারের আত্মীয়গণ হইয়া থাকেন এবং দিন দিন গরীব প্রজাগণের ট্যেক্স অধিক করিয়া থাকেন এবং তাহাদের নিজেদের ও আত্মীয়-স্বজনের ট্যেক্স কম হারে আদায় করিয়া থাকেন, আশা করি আমাদের গভর্ণমেন্ট যাহাতে গরীব প্রজার ট্যেক্স বৃদ্ধি করিতে না পারেন তাহার ব্যবস্থা করিবেন এবং উকিল, মোক্তার, ডাক্তার, জমিদারগণ ও তাহাদের আত্মীয়-স্বজনগণ মিলিয়া প্রজাদিগকে ভুল বুঝাইয়া চাঁন্দা আদায় করিতেছেন এবং আমার গভর্ণমেন্ট ইহাও অবগত আছেন যে দশ হাজার হিন্দু-মোসলমান ও তাহার আত্মীয়-স্বজন উকিল, মোক্তার ও ডাক্তারসহ প্রত্যেক জেলায় জেলায় একটি কমিটি প্রস্তুত করিয়াছেন যাহাতে জমি গভর্ণমেন্ট খাস না করেন সেই জন্য চেষ্টা করিতেছে। আশা করি গভর্ণমেন্ট জমিদারগণের নিকট হইতে জমি খাস করিয়া গরীব প্রজাগণকে জমি চারি আনা, ছয় আনা ও আট আনা হারে প্রতি বিঘা বন্দোবস্ত করিয়া দিবেন ইহাই আমার প্রস্তাব। আমার আর একটি কথা বলিবার আছে বর্ত্তমান এই লাট-দরবার ৫ পাঁচ বৎসরের জন্য হইয়াছে এবং মেম্বারগণ লাটসভায় আসিয়াছেন এই সময়ের মধ্যে যাহাতে জমির রিপোর্ট দাখিল না হয় তাহার চেষ্টা জমিদারগণ করিতেছেন তবে খোদা করিলে জমি গভর্ণমেন্ট খাস করিয়া লইবেন এবং জমিদারদিগকে কম্পানির কাগজ তাহার পরিবর্ত্তে দিবেন এবং এই অল্প দিনের মধ্যে প্রজাসত্ব আইন বহু চেষ্টার ফলে খোদা পাক, পাশ করাইয়াছেন। শতকরা ২০৲ টাকা ল্যান্ড-লর্ড ফি উঠিয়া গিয়াছে এবং ১২॥৹ টাকা সুদের স্থলে ৬।৹ সোয়া ছয় টাকা সুদের হার গভর্ণমেন্ট হইতে ধার্য্য হইয়াছে এবং ইহা-ছাড়া বহু প্রকার আইন পাশ হইয়াছে এখন আমার গভর্ণমেন্টের নিকট অনুরোধ জমি জমিদারদের নিকট হইতে খাস করিয়া লইয়া গরীব প্রজাদিগকে প্রতিপালন করা হউক এবং অবৈতনিক ফ্রি প্রাইমারী স্কুল বিনা ট্যেক্সে গরীব

প্রজাগণের শিক্ষার জন্য প্রত্যেক ইউনিয়নে ইউনিয়নে স্থাপিত করা হউক। প্রজাগণ এবার লাট-দরবারে যে সব প্রজাগণকে ভোট দিয়া পাঠাইয়াছেন এবার প্রজাগণের যে উপকার খোদার ফজলে পাইয়াছেন তাহা দীর্ঘ-কাল খোদার ফজলে প্রজাগণের মনে থাকিবে—আমিন শুম্মা আমিন।

Mr. AHMED HOSAIN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in speaking on the main demand, I would like to say a few words on the certificate procedure for the realisation of rents. Government and the Coalition Party long ago abolished Chapter XIII of the Bengal Tenancy Act and thereby the certificate procedure by the landlords was abolished. Then, after that, the Chief Minister on behalf of the Government gave us an assurance that the Government will hold in abeyance this power of certificate for a period of two years. That two years has elapsed. Now from the results of the working and from the perusal of the Red Book we see that the Government will be fully justified if they stop the process of realisation of rent by certificate procedure for ever, because the rent shows that revenue receipts have not at all been affected by the system of the certificate procedure. On the other hand, on the credit side, there has been a definite saving.

I must in this connection say a few words about certificate of garnishee and another certificate under section 99 of the Cess Act. Estates which make default in payment of their cess are attached by Government. The estate is not put up to sale for realisation of rent, but Government .. ..

(At this stage the member reached the time-limit but was allowed to continue for 2 minutes more.)

Government, as I was saying, Sir, feels no compulsion in putting the machinery in operation upon the tenants. They give protection to a few individuals but they hesitate to give protection to the masses. This sort of practice must cease. In order that a country may prosper, individuals must sacrifice themselves for the sake of the masses, for the sake of the nation, but here in this country, Sir, we see that for the sake of a few individuals Government sacrifices the masses. This practice must cease. In future the certificate procedure should be abolished root and branch. There should be no certificate under section 99, no certificate in khas mahal and no certificate in court of wards estates.

Then, Sir, I would like to say a few words about the system of realisation of cess by district boards. The system is very bad. The responsibility is that of the district boards. Money is advanced on requisition by the district boards. The district board spends the money, but in spending it the district board likes to spend the money on others' responsibility. They do not intend to develop village roads; they do not look to the needs of the masses. They make it a superstructure of their own system. This system is very bad.....

(At this stage the member again reached the time-limit but was allowed to finish his sentence.)

I hope, Sir, Government will take this under their control and the responsibility in this matter will be fixed.

Mr. ASIMUDDIN AHMED: Sir, I beg to move.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no time for moving your motion. Please speak generally.

Mr. ASIMUDDIN AHMED: মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব, চাঁন্দিনা প্রজার স্থায়ী-সত্বের জন্য এই motion উপস্থিত কোরছি। সেদিন মাননীয় রাজস্বসচীব মহাশয় Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill পাশ কোরেছেন। সেটাতে কেবলমাত্র উচ্ছেদ ২ বৎসরের জন্য স্থগিত রাখার ব্যবস্থা করা হোয়েছে, কিন্তু স্থায়ী-সত্বের ব্যবস্থা করা হয় নাই। চান্দিনা প্রজারা স্থায়ী-সত্ব চায়। কুমিল্লা, ২৪-পরগণা, বর্দ্ধমান, লাকশাম প্রভৃতি বহু-স্থান হোতে এ সম্বন্ধে deputation পাওয়া গিয়েছে। যখন Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill Select Committeeতে ছিল তখন অনেকে এ সম্বন্ধে রাজস্ব-মন্ত্রীর সঙ্গে দেখা কোরেছিলেন। পরশু দিন লাকসামের চান্দিনা প্রজাদের উপর অত্যাচার, অবিচার হোচ্ছে বলে বহু টেলিগ্রাম পাওয়া গিয়াছে। তাঁরা অতি অশান্তিতে বাস কোচ্ছেন। যে সকল লোকদের landed property নেই তারা দোকানাদি কোরে কোন রকমে জীবিকা নির্ব্বাহের চেষ্টা করে। তাদের যদি যখন ইচ্ছা তখন তাড়াবার ব্যবস্থা হয় তাহোলে তারা কোথায় যাবে, তাহাদের পাহাড়ে, জঙ্গলে যেতে হবে। এই অবস্থায় আশা করি গভর্ণমেন্ট অতি সত্বর চান্দিনা প্রজাদের স্থায়ী-সত্ব দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা কোরবেন।

(At this stage the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, six cut motions have been moved, and I am afraid I shall not be able to reply to all the criticisms that have been levelled against the policy of Government within the short time at my disposal.

First of all, I shall try to reply to the criticism advanced by Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar. In moving his motion he made it clear that he moved it more in appreciation of the Government policy rather than in a spirit of criticism of the Government action regarding the suspension of the certificate procedure. I may assure him and the House that in this matter, out of deference to the wishes of the Coaliation Party Government had decided long ago to suspend the use of the certificate procedure for two years and they have no intention of going back on that decision at present. If the collection of rent does not fall below expectation, it is not necessary for them to revive the use of certificate procedure. So, it should be the duty of everybody to advise the tenants to pay up the arrear rent if they want the Government policy of suspension of the certificate procedure to continue.

As regards the point raised in this connection by Mr. Ahmad Hosain that garnishee and attachment under section 99 of the Cess Act should be stopped, because they are always followed by the use of the certificate procedure for realisation of arrear rent from individual tenants, he spoke at length on the principle of sacrificing the rich men for the masses. Here, I may point out that Government have got a distinct duty to the district boards as regards realisation of cesses. Unless the district boards can be assured of their cess income, they will cease to function, and on this point my friend Mr. Manmatha Nath Roy, in moving his cut motion, made a lot of complaint about the fall in realisation of cesses. Mr. Ahmed Hosain suggest selling up the defaulting zamindar, but selling up will not serve any useful purpose, the defaulter can be sold up once. What about the next occasion? After all the money must come from the defaulting tenants? If defaulting tenants do not pay, I do not think there is any justification for selling up the middle man, because though you may have the pleasure of selling him up which will ruin him, that will not improve the realisation of cesses.

I next turn, Sir, to the amendment moved by Mr. Giasuddin Ahmad regarding reduction of rent. Several members have spoken on this point and raised similar questions in the course of the discussion. The honourable members are aware that it is not so easy to agree to reduction of rent because Government must be satisfied that rent in a particular estate or area is high before they can decide to reduce it. Suppose that they decide to reduce rent by 25 per cent. A man who pays Rs. 10 per acre—his rent will be reduced by 25 per cent. which may be justified—whereas a person paying only Re. 1 per acre, his rent also will be reduced by 25 per cent. So, where is fairness or equity? Therefore, unless Government can go into individual cases and are satisfied that the rent level is high in a particular case or estate, it is difficult for them to agree to any general *ad hoc* reduction of rent. The House knows that the general level of rent in Bengal is by no means high. There is no comparison between Bengal and Bihar. If the rent is high it is the rent of the *bargadars* that is high. It is primarily the *raiyats* who realise 50 per cent. of the gross production, whereas the rent which we are called upon to reduce is probably 1/13th or 1/16th. So, unless the *bargadar's* rent is reduced you cannot really give relief to the actual cultivator. Those who are friends of the poor or the tillers of the soil must agree to cut down the rent of the actual tiller. It is therefore no use asking Government to reduce rent unless they themselves reduce the rent which they realise from the *bargadars*. (Mr. M. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: But what is your suggestion? What is your reply? We have seen enough of these old suggestions.) Government have appointed a committee to go into the question. I do not think the worst critics of Government

can charge them with anti-tenant bias. Government are certainly anxious and are prepared to give relief to the tenants where relief is necessary and justified and the moment it is brought to their notice that in a particular area the rent is high they will certainly grant relief as soon as possible. The committee which has been working for the last 2 years has not yet submitted its report. When the committee submits its report it may be possible for Government to devise a simpler method for the reduction of rent.

I will now turn to the cut motion moved by Mr. Manmatha Nath Roy regarding the fall in the realisation of cesses. As Chairman of a district board, I sympathise with him and I fully realise his difficulties in administering the district board with depleted revenues. Sir, the fall in cess collections is largely due to the general economic depression, to the general non-payment mentality and to the suspension of the use of the certificate procedure. As Chairman of a district board Mr. Roy is anxious that cases should be realised as quickly as possible and credited to the district fund, whereas, as a politician, as an M.L.A., probably he wants to encourage the non-payment mentality. (MR. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Question!) These two things, I say, Sir, cannot go together. (MR. M. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: What is your mentality?) I can tell you that I am always consistent. Mr. Roy makes certain complaints regarding delay in crediting cesses to the district fund. I promise to look into the matter and remedy the defects. Mr. Roy has alleged that Government officers were negligent in the realisation of cesses. It is not so. Government officers certainly do their best in collecting the cesses. Mr. Roy must realise, however, that the powers of the Government officers are limited, and they cannot easily overcome the no-payment mentality.

Now, let me turn to the cut motion moved by Mr. Atul Kumar on behalf of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal. He said that Government should not try to realise the loans advanced to agriculturists in times of distress before they get three full good harvests. I think, Sir, that is what he suggested. Government in fact are very liberal in this respect, and the policy which they are following was enunciated in a circular that was issued on the 21st June 1938. I would just like to read out to the House a few lines from that circular enunciating Government policy. "Collection should be carefully organised. The centres at which payments will be received and the dates on which debtors should attend at those centres for payment should be notified widely and in good time, through Union Boards or otherwise. Collection should ordinarily commence immediately after the main crop has been harvested and marketed". Sir, mark the words "the main crop" which is the *aman* paddy. Therefore collection should start early in January and should be organised

so as to cease by the middle of March. Where jute is the important crop collection may appropriately be made in October and November. So Government never try to realise before the agriculturist has collected his crop. When the main crop is a definite failure the proper course is to suspend the whole instalment under rule 15. When the main crop is not a definite failure but is distinctly poor, collection should proceed but with liberal remission of interest and without the issue of certificate procedure. When the main crop is good and the majority of the debtors are believed to be in a position to repay the full instalments, collection should be vigorously pursued. So I do not think that anybody can find fault with the instructions that Government have issued to their officers. That these intructions are strictly followed will be evident from our collection figures.

Government advanced loans to the extent of Rs. 61,24,664 in 1939-40. Of this amount Rs. 35,46,345 was due in 1939-40. We collected up to January 1940 Rs. 5,79,845. The amount advanced in 1939-40 was Rs. 32,13,957. The amount due this year was Rs. 6,93,777. The total amount collected up to January is Rs. 6,22,942, out of Rs. 94 lakhs advanced in two years. So the allegation that Government are causing hardship to the tenants by proceeding with a vigorous policy of realisation, bears scrutiny. We have been very liberal in collection and we are trying not to use any coercive methods, in fact, whatever payments have been made this year, have been made mostly voluntarily. Only Rs. 6,22,000 have been collected, as I have already said, out of Rs. 94 lakhs advanced.

Now, I turn to the allegation made by my friend Mr. Kshetra Mohan Singha, that Government in the Revenue Department are very unsympathetic to the claims of the Scheduled Castes in matters of appointment under the Court of Wards. Sir, I would request my friend to bear a few facts in mind. First of all, Government manage the estates not on political ground but in the interest of the proprietors. That is the first point that my honourable friend should remember. So, it is extremely difficult for Government to make appointments entirely on political grounds, although I do not for a moment suggest that Government should not look to the interests of different communities. If a particular estate seeks the protection of Government, certainly it cannot afford to ignore the policy followed by Government regarding public services and in making appointments the estate should try to follow the Government rules as far as practicable.

Babu KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: May I ask whether, the Hon'ble Minister is aware that there is a convention in the estate of the Maharaja of Cossimbazar?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Sir, I am not going to give way. Government have already decided that in the matter of appointments in the Court of Wards also the communal ratio formula should be followed as far as possible. I say as far as possible because it is not always practicable to follow it strictly. For instance, there are no cadres in the Court of Wards services. A particular estate may have only one or two superior officers and half a dozen clerks. There is no room for promotion. There is no question of lower or upper grade services. So all the rules and procedure that may be followed in Government services cannot be given effect to in the limited sphere of the Court of Wards appointments. (Babu KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: Our case is a hopeless one.) Another question also arises in this connection, namely, the estate officers may have to look to the religious performances of the proprietors. In a Muslim estate naturally a Muslim officer would be more suitable to supervise and look after the religious peformances of the family. Similarly, in a Hindu estate a Hindu officer will be more suitable to supervise and look after the religious ceremonies of the proprietor. It is, therefore, almost impossible strictly to give effect to the communal ratio rules in Court of Wards services. But Government have already decided and they are going to issue instructions that the communal ratio formula should be given effect to as far as possible and should be followed in the interests of all communities—Hindus and Muslims—and amongst the Hindus I include the Scheduled Castes. My friend Mr. Kshetra Nath Singha has said that I, as Revenue Minister, look to the interests of my community. There is no such thing as my community and his community, because I have always thought that he belongs to my community and I belong to his community. He wants to raise a barrier, but I refuse to recognise that barrier. My friend should have no apprehension that the interest of the Scheduled Castes are going to be ignored at the hands of the Revenue Department. Government are going to do their best and will see that all communities—Hindus and Muslims—do get a fair chance in the matter of appointments under the Court of Wards.

Sir, regarding the point raised by my friend Maulvi Gholam Sarwar Hossaini, namely, that *abwabs* are realized by certain landlords, if he will bring specific instances to my notice I shall be glad to order an enquiry into these cases.

Mr. Aulad Hossain Khan drew the attention of the House to the question of realization of transfer fees by landlords in respect of holdings which were sold before 1928. On this point Government were advised by their law officers that the existing law was clear enough. But I give him an assurance that I shall have the matter more carefully examined and if necessary Government will not hesitate to bring in an amendment of the Act on that particular point.

Mr. Abdul Majid made certain suggestions regarding the repairing of embankments. Government have, as I stated in my opening speech, appointed a specal officer to frame a programme of khas mahal improvements and we are going to issue instructions to him so that he might look into the problems of Noakhali, specially with regard to the repairing of embankments.

As regards Mr. Stuart's recommendations that land should be settled only with *bona fide* cultivators and not with middlemen, we have already issued instructions that land should be settled only with *bona fide* cultivators. With regard to his suggestion that people who have suffered from erosion in Noakhali and have consequently lost their lands should be granted settlement of land on a nominal *salami*, I have already requested the Collector to go into the question. If Government tenants in khas mahal estates have lost their lands they have a claim on Government and I am sure Government will not hesitate to treat them generously.

Now I come to the question of the shifting of Noakhali town. This is a problem which bristles with difficulties. The House may remember that a Committee was appointed to go into the whole question about two years ago. The Committee made certain recommendations. The cost was estimated to be something like Rs. 32 lakhs, but the revised estimate has gone up to Rs. 40 lakhs. So, the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy, Finance Minister, and myself propose to visit Noakhali immediately after the session of the legislature is over to have local inspection in order to come to a decision. You will realise, Sir, that it is not possible for Government to commit themselves to a particular course of action without a very careful examination of the problem involving such a heavy expenditure as Rs. 40 lakhs. I fully realise the difficulty of the people of the town. My sympathies are with Mr. Abdul Majid and the citizens of Noakhali, but it is not possible for Government to come to a decision immediately.

Sir, I may last of all refer to the remarks of Mr. Abdul Wahed Bokainagari. He made certain allegations to the effect that Government are not sympathetic to tenants and that they show only lip sympathy. Sir, I only wish that he had emulated Government in this respect and instead of trying to deprive his neighbours of their holdings and trying to grab their land with the help of landlords, he had been equally sympathetic to his neighbours as Government are to them——

Mr. SYED HASAN ALI CHOWDHURY: Sir, this is a personal reflection on the honourable member.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think a serious notice ought to be taken of the statement just now made by the Hon'ble Minister and he should be asked to explain what he

actually meant when he said "instead of trying to grab the holdings of his neighbours, if he had been more sympathetic something would have happened"; if that is the statement that he has made, I think, it does require some amount of explanation as to whether it was intended personally for the honourable member himself.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Sir, I have stated certain facts and I am sure the honourable member will appreciate what I have said. These are home truths but they need not perturb the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: The Hon'ble Minister evidently sticks to the statement that he made and this he reiterates by saying that these are home truths. Sir, if it is not in a figurative sense that he made use of this expression—if that be so—and the Hon'ble Minister still sticks to it, I think the honourable member referred to can certainly raise it as a question of privilege.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you want to raise a question of privilege, you are at liberty to do so. But, I think, it was used in a figurative sense.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: If that be so, I have absolutely no quarrel with the Hon'ble Minister. But the Hon'ble Minister still sticks to his statement and reiterates it by saying that these are home truths. So, Sir, there is some amount of divergence between his statement and your interpretation of it.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I thought my friend, Mr. Basu, had more sense of humour than he has displayed to-night!

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Sir, I fail to realise how the question of humour comes in when the question of grabbing has been raised.

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED: Sir, মন্ত্রী মহাশয় ইংরাজীতে আমার সম্বন্ধে কি মন্তব্য কোরলেন আমি বুঝতে পারছি না। যদি বাংলায় বলেন তাহলে আমি তার উত্তর দিতে পারি।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Since the Hon'ble Minister has said it humorously, I think Mr. Basu should take it as such.

Sir Bijoy, have you finished or have you got anything more to say?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Sir, I have nothing more to add. I hope the House will pass the main demand.

The motion of Maulvi Abu Hossain Sarkar that the demand of Rs. 28,08,000 under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Giasuddin Ahmad that the demand of Rs. 28,08,000 under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES—41.

Abdul Wahed, Maulvi.
Abu Hossain Sarkar, Maulvi.
Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.
Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed.
Asimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Banerji, Mr. P.
Banerjee, Mr. Pramatha Nath.
Barma, Babu Pramhari.
Barma, Mr. Puspajit.
Barman, Babu Shyama Prosad.
Basu, Mr. Santosh Kumar.
Biswas, Babu Lakshmi Narayan.
Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath.
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath.
Das, Babu Mahim Chandra.
Das, Mr. Manmohan.
Doloi, Mr. Harendra Nath.
Emdadul Haque, Kazi.
Ghose, Mr. Atul Krishna.
Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Gupta, Mr. Jogesh Chandra.
Gupta, Mr. J. N.
Hasan Ali Chowdhury, Mr. Syed.
Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi.
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath.
Maiti, Mr. Nikunja Behari.
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova.
Mandal, Mr. Amrita Lal.
Mallick, Srijut Ashutosh.
Nausher Ali, Mr. Syed.
Pramanik, Mr. Tarinicharan.
Ramizuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra.
Roy, Mr. Kamalkrishna.
Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar.
Roy, Mr. Kishori Pati.
Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath.
Shamsuddin Ahmed, Mr. M.
Singha, Babu Kshetra Nath.
Sinha, Srijut Manindraj Bhusan.
Waliur Rahman, Maulvi.

NOES—37.

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza.
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mia.
Abdul Hakeem, Mr.
Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Maulvi Md.
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M.
Abdul Hamid Shah, Maulvi.
Abdul Kader, Mr. (alias Lal Meah).
Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed.
Abdul Wahab Khan, Mr.
Abdur Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. F. M.
Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Mr.
Abdur Rashed, Maulvi Md.
Abdur Rauf, Khan Sahib Maulvi S
Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Shah.
Abdur Razzak, Maulvi.
Abdus Shahed, Maulvi Md.
Adal Hossain Ahmed, Mr.
Ahmi Quasem, Maulvi.
Altab Ali, Mr.
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Maulvi.
Ahmed Hussain, Mr.
Allazuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Aminullah, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Amir Ali Mia, Maulvi Md.
Anwarul Azim, Khan Bahadur Md.
Asiad Hossain Khan, Maulvi.
Azhar Ali, Maulvi.
Badruddoja, Mr. Syed.
Chippendale, Mr. J. W.
Clark, Mr. L. A.
Das, Mr. Anukul Chandra.
Das, Rai Sahib Kirit Bhusan.
Farhad Raza Chowdhury, Mr. M.
Fazlul Huq, the Hon'ble Mr. A. K.
Fazlul Quadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca).
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Mymensingh).
Gomes, Mr. S. A.
Griffiths, Mr. C.
Habibullah, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur K., of Dacca.
Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Maulvi.
Hashem Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Hatemaliy Jamadar, Khan Sahib Maulvi.
Hawkings, Mr. R. J.
Haywood, Mr. Rogers.
Hendry, Mr. David.
Hirtzel, Mr. H. A. F.
Idris Ahmed Mia, Maulvi.
Kazem Ali Mirza, Sahibzada Kawas Jah Syed.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Maulvi.
Mafizuddin Choudhury, Maulvi.
Mahtabuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi.
Mandal, Mr. Jagat Chandra.
Marindin, Mr. F. J.
Miller, Mr. G.
Mozammel Huq, Maulvi Md.
Muhammad Afzal, Khan Sahib Maulvi Syed.
Muhammad Ibrahim, Maulvi.
Muhammad Israil, Maulvi.
Muhammad Siddique, Khan Bahadur Dr. Syed.

Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Mukunda Behary.
Mustaqawwal Haque, Mr. Syed.
Nandy, the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra, of Cossimbazar.
Nasarullah, Nawabzada K.
Nazimuddin, the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir, K.C.I.E.
Norton, Mr. H. R.
Raikut, the Hon'ble Mr. Prasanna Deb.
Roy, the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh.
Roy, Mr. Patiram.
Sahabe Alum, Mr. Syed.
Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr.
Salim, Mr. S. A.
Sanaullah, Al-Haj Maulana Dr.
Sarkar, Babu Madhusudan.
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Shahabuddin, Mr. Khwaja, C.B.E.
Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda.
Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Stark, Mr. A. F.
Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr.
Tofel Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi Haji.
Walker, Mr. W. A. M.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.
Yusuf Ali Choudhury, Mr.
Zahur Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi.

The Ayes being 41 and the Noes 87, the motion was lost.

The motion of Mr. Maqbul Hossain that the demand of Rs. 28,08,000 under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Kshetra Nath Singha that the demand of Rs. 28,08,000 under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Atul Chandra Kumar that the demand of Rs. 28,08,000 under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Manmatha Nath Roy that the demand of Rs. 28,08,000 under the head "7—Land Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy that a sum of Rs. 28,08,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" was put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 2,00,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "54—Famine."

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move on behalf of Mr. Haripada Chattopadhyaya that the demand of Rs. 2,00,000 under the head "54—Famine" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a most unpleasant part of my duty to criticise a demand put forward by the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy for various reasons. If any demand deserves unequivocal condemnation, I think, it is this demand which will occupy the most prominent place. When during the last famine when all Bengal was inundated and when individual members of different districts approached the Hon'ble Minister and put forward their demands and narrated the whole story, what was the response from the side of the Government? Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it will not be out of place if

I go a bit into the past history of this Famine Insurance Fund which before the year 1920, was under the jurisdiction of the Central Government and at that time the Finance Insurance Fund was wholly mismanaged and the money was misused for the purpose of military expenditure even. The records of those days are written in the most blackest possible language in the annals of the history of India. But so far as we are concerned at the present moment, we have nothing to do with the past, but we cannot forget the fundamental demand of the citizens of Bengal when they are ill-treated, when they are treated most callously, simply because a famine happens and people in distress approach the Government for help. The zulum and the callousness of the police officers is proverbial in Bengal, but if I refer to the callousness of the Circle Officers and other officers deputed for the purpose of giving relief to the famine-stricken people, I think it will be no exaggeration to say that these officers treat these famine-stricken peasants as if they were criminals, as if they were objects of charity. I know that from distant villages Muhammadan and Hindu peasants alike—my Muhammadan friends should remember that they consisted of both Muhammadans and Hindus—approached the Circle Officers and the callousness with which they were treated was very objectionable. The very attitude of these officers is insulting to humanity. The Government ought to remember that the Famine Insurance Fund has been created by the premium in the shape of revenue by those poor peasants. It is their money, it is their revenue that has built up that Famine Insurance Fund and after an interval of five, ten or fifteen years when the famine comes in the country and when these innocent peasants approach the Circle Officers, or the Subdivisional Officers or the District Magistrates for help they are treated like cats and dogs as if those District Magistrates, those Subdivisional Officers, those Circle Officers are giving this money by way of charity from their own personal pockets. I think all the members of this House without any distinction whatsoever will bear me out in regard to the way in which the girls, mothers and sisters from different villages went to the centres to receive the doles were treated by the Circle Inspectors and other officers deputed by Government. This very attitude, this very neglect must be changed if the Government want to declare themselves as popular Government.

Then, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge to another fact. We know that every Government has its limitations. We know that our resources are also limited, but what is the good of making official attempts always to hush up hard facts which are predominating before the eyes of the public?

There are many reports about people dying of starvation from the districts of Jessore, Barisal and other districts as well, and I would like to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to this fact. With

full sense of responsibility we realise, that Government have not got any talisman in their pockets and that they have not enough resources by which they can remove all the grievances of the province, * * * * * * There is a Government report in which Government acknowledged the fact, if I am entitled to say so, that the population of people affected by famine in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa was 1 crore and 70 lakhs, and the money spent for relief of the people so affected was 8 crores of rupees.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is the date?

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: 1873-74, Sir. I would like to draw attention to the fact that in that report Government admitted the number of people affected by famine, the number of deaths due to starvation and the amount spent by Government. * * * * *

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: On a point of order, Sir. Is the honourable member entitled to make such vague allegations against Government as procuring evidence and all that?

Mr. AHMED ALI MRIDHA: I will give him a fitting reply. I am in the know of things.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: In course of supplementary questions so many incidents have been exposed. * * * * *

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That portion will be expunged from the proceedings.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Since my time is up, with these few words I wish to commend the cut motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Sir, I am a cut and dried sort of man. I do not say what I do not mean. I feel in my heart of hearts.....

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Mridha, I have already ordered the expungement of that portion. You need not refer to that.

Mr. AHMED ALI MRIDHA: All right, Sir. I must confine myself to what are the bare facts in connection with the activities of the Government during the last floods in fourteen districts of Bengal. I myself took interest in moving the Hon'ble Minister on occasions more than one hundred and I took interest in seeing the District Magistrate, the Subdivisional Officers and Circle Officers, and I had

been in touch with the people of my subdivision and with many people of the three other subdivisions of my district. My district was in the greatest difficulties because there was severe damage to the crop which severely told upon the economic condition of the people. Really the people—many of them, a very large percentage—had to go without food for some time. Of course, that was the condition. But Government was not indifferent to this condition of the people, and I can assure the honourable members of this House that Sir Bijoy was all sympathy—always and every moment. Whenever we approached him, he assured us to give relief to the people. (Loud applause from the Coalition benches.) It is true that the administrative authorities here and there were not so enthusiastic over doing good to our people, but it is not the creation of the present Government but of the past and is still continuing here and there. Of course we have got our grievances here and there, but it is not the fault of the present Government. They have made every effort to give relief to the distressed people and always directions were given by the Government to be carried out in mufassal by all the District Officers in the districts—at district head-quarters, and in the subdivisions—and also by Circle Officers. I know fully well that whenever any question came up before Sir Bijoy, he took the matter very sympathetically. I can also assure the honourable members that the village people who had never had the occasion to approach a Government member—even this Sir Bijoy was not approachable five years back—in my own *elaka* these people came to see Sir Bijoy who gave them interviews, made heart to heart talk with them and heard everything from their mouth. I again tell you, Sir, that he not only told them good words but he also translated his words into action. Even something more was done. He called in the District Magistrates of all the distressed districts, he called in the Divisional Commissioners concerned, held conferences and made deliberations with them; and then he framed schemes and plans for action. A machinery was set up and by the efforts of a number of members of the Legislature, along with the District Officers and the Divisional Commissioners concerned, all things were settled easily and action was taken. Gratuitous relief was given to the distressed people, test relief work was undertaken and agricultural loans also were distributed. Of course, we may say many things, but ultimately we really see our people anyhow tided over the difficulties—nobody died of hunger, nobody died of starvation. I have a good appreciation to give to this Government because I know fully well that they were sincerely working for giving relief to the flood and famine-stricken people. I say this with authority because I have seen and known much more than many other members of this House who live in town. You may call me a rustic, but I say that I will always live among my own people; I do not live in a town. I live in the village, I go into the village, I work in the village; the other day even—I mean the day before yesterday—I was in the village.

So I have the opportunity to know all these things personally. Government cannot expect to be lavish in the matter of giving relief. Government cannot give food to the people, they can only give them a start in life, so that they can find some work and can find some money just to begin that work. (Loud applause from the Coalition benches.) That was the essential necessity and that was done actually. So the honourable members of the Opposition can have nothing to say either against Sir Bijoy or against the Government.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Sir, I really regret that my honourable friend, the mover of the motion, tried to speak in a spirit of carping criticism rather than that of appreciation of the difficulties of Government in tackling the distress which spread over fifteen districts of Bengal in 1938-39.

The grant of Rs. 2 lakhs for famine relief covers three items, namely, Rs. 20,000 for gratuitous relief, Rs. 1,78,000 for test relief work and Rs. 2,000 for establishment in connection with famine relief. These are the details of the Rs. 2 lakh demand.

Whenever it has been necessary to spend more money, Government have met the situation by a supplementary demand or have spent the money and have then come up before the Legislature for regularising the expenditure, and they propose to do so on this occasion also, if necessary. I hope, however, that it will not be necessary to spend a large amount on famine relief as we had to do in 1938-39.

As regards the allegation made by the honourable member from Jessore that there were cases of starvation and Government concocted evidence and tried to hush up cases of death due to starvation, Sir, the honourable member attempted to move, if I remember correctly, adjournment motions on more than one occasion in this House on that ground, but he could not succeed. The distress continued for over a year and there was a large number of questions in the Assembly, but nobody could prove that there was a single instance where any person died of starvation and Government do definitely claim the credit of preventing death due to starvation. Government appointed committees—district committees, subdivisional committees, union committees, and even village committees—for the distribution of relief and they got full co-operation of the non-officials, the machinery set up by Government did work satisfactorily. In fact, it would not have been possible to manage the relief work and tackle the situation without the help and co-operation of the public. Against Government officers the honourable member made certain very uncharitable remarks. He alleged that the Subdivisional Officers and the Circle Officers treated the people in distress with unkindness. Sir, so far as my information goes,—I should say my personal knowledge goes,—the officers did work wonderfully well. In fact, they do deserve our thanks and

gratitude. The Commissioners of Divisions, the District Magistrates, the Subdivisional Officers and the Circle Officers, all did their best to tackle the situation and there was not a single instance where Government found any reasonable officer not prepared to do what he should have done under the circumstances. Sir, with these few words I oppose the cut motion and I hope the honourable members will pass the demand which I have placed before the House.

The motion moved by Mr. Atul Krishna Ghose that the demand of Rs. 2,00,000 under the head "54—Famine" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy that a sum of Rs. 2,00,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

It being 8-12 p.m.—

The House was adjourned till 4-45 p.m. on Tuesday, the 19th March, 1940, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 19th March, 1940, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E.) in the Chair, 10 Hon'ble Ministers and 197 members.

UNSTARRED QUESTION

(to which the answer was laid on the table)

Irrigation and agricultural development of the villages of Dhalai and Farhadabad.

115A. Dr. SANAULLAH: (*a*) With reference to the reply given to starred question No. 196 on the 25th August, 1938, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state whether any revised scheme has been received from Maulvi Nabidur Rahman, B.L., Secretary of the Dhalai-Farhadabad Co-operative Irrigation Society in the district of Chittagong, regarding the irrigation and agricultural development of the villages Dhalai and Farhadabad?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what other steps the Government propose to take in connection with the said scheme?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the Hon'ble Minister recently visited Chittagong accompanied by the Chief Engineer and other officers of the Irrigation Department in connection with this matter?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar): (*a*) and (*b*) The Collector has received a petition from the gentleman named and is making inquiries.

(*c*) I do not think that I visited the villages mentioned.

DEMAND FOR GRANT.

XVII, etc.—Irrigation.

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 31,60,000 be granted for expenditure under the heads "XVII—Irrigation—Working Expenses," "18—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Ordinary Revenues," "18(1)—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Famine Insurance Fund," "19—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works—B—Financed from Ordinary Revenues" and "68—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works not charged to Revenues." With the amount provided on account of charged expenditure the total budget under these heads is Rs. 35,34,000. The amount provided in the current year's budget was Rs. 38,02,000 but that included Rs. 2,50,000 as a grant-in-aid for the Waterways Board, for which no provision is being made for the coming year. Then in the budget for 1939-40 a sum of Rs. 1,71,000 was provided on the expenditure side, for minor flushing and drainage schemes and the improvement of village communications and existing waterways, against an equivalent receipt from the Government of India's grant and local contributions. If these two sums are deducted from the total of the current year's budget, we get the sum of Rs. 33,81,000. In the coming year the amount budgeted for as receipt on account of, and expenditure on, what we may call Government of India grant schemes, is Rs. 58,000. When that is deducted from the budget now before the House the total is Rs. 34,76,000 or Rs. 95,000 more than last year.

Sir, a year ago I laid emphasis on the complexity and seriousness of the problems which this department is called upon to solve, and endeavoured to explain the comprehensive policy which had been framed by me in full consultation with recognised experts in the field. I think I need not repeat that this comprehensive policy has taken full note of the regional needs of western, central, northern and eastern Bengal, and that important spadework has been undertaken in furtherance of the policy adumbrated.

Sir, I submit that we have followed up this policy during the current year having regard to the time required for the collection of data, careful investigation and the limitations imposed by considerations of finance and more particularly the abnormal situation recently created by the war. Plans have been made to expand the department and reorganise it so that it may be able to cope with the immense magnitude of the work involved, efficiently and at the same time expeditiously. I told the House last year that this reorganisation scheme was given

effect to on a temporary basis as an experimental measure. In the grant which the House is being asked to make, provision has been made for reorganisation of the Irrigation Department on a permanent basis. Members interested might like to see two maps, which will be left on the Library Table for a few days showing the old and new organisations. It will be noticed that this reorganisation makes ample provision for the needs of the regional divisions of the province. I may also tell the House that a further specialised division is under consideration which will cater to the interests of south-east Bengal.

Another task on which the department has been engaged during the last two years or so has been the examination of lists of small schemes received from district officers, local authorities and others. These lists have been received in response to a call which I made shortly after assuming office, to enable me to get an idea of the number and nature of projects of local interest, so that those which were found to be technically and financially feasible could be taken up in due course as funds permit. Lists of these small schemes, arranged district by district, have now been prepared and I am arranging to have them published with brief comments by my technical officers. There are already no less than 870 schemes in the list, a figure which will give the House some idea of the magnitude of the task involved and the keenness of the demand for ameliorative measures against the present unsatisfactory conditions as regards drainage, public health, productivity of the soil, navigation facilities, etc. I shall have more to say about these schemes when I referred the features of the 1940-41 budget.

Sir, in my last Budget speech I had an occasion to explain to the House the need of having inter-provincial River Commissions for the conservancy of the three main sources of perennial water-supply, viz., the Ganges, the Brahmaputra and the Meghna I think I need not stress the point that any satisfactory solution of the flood problem or the problem of the deterioration of the spill channels is not possible unless and until inter-provincial machineries are put into working, co-ordinating the different policies towards the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna systems followed by the provinces through which they pass. Last year I mentioned that we had made satisfactory progress in this regard, and that the Governments of the United Provinces and Bihar had agreed, in principle, to the constitution of a Ganges River Commission to deal with all matters relating to the conservancy of this river system. It is unfortunate that the upstream provinces do not appear to feel as keenly as we do in this important matter and that the constitution of this Commission is being delayed as a result. I do not propose to strike a note of pessimism in this respect, but I think I can assure the House that we shall spare no pains in getting the Commission constituted amicably as early as possible. I also hope that there will be no occasion to appeal to the relevant sections of the Government of India Act in this important regard.

In this connection, Sir, I may mention that we have also asked the Government of Assam to agree to the constitution of a similar Commission for the Brahmaputra and the Meghna rivers, and I am glad to be able to inform the House that our proposal has been accepted in principle. I am now taking necessary steps for the formation of a committee who will be entrusted with the duty of drawing up the necessary constitution and will discharge, as far as possible, the functions of the Commission till it is duly constituted.

As part of the preparation for our long term, large scale, attack on the major problem which confronts the province, we have during the past year examined in some detail a scheme to which I referred a year ago—the establishment of a River Research Institute, where the department could test the soundness of their proposals by means of models before asking the tax-payer to commit himself to heavy expenditure on carrying these proposals into effect. In preparing this scheme we had the assistance of an expert whose services the Government of the Punjab placed at our disposal, and I should like to express our appreciation of the kindness of that Government in co-operating with us in this way. Unfortunately financial stringency has made it impossible for us to ask the House, as we had hoped to ask them, for a grant which would have made it possible to start the institute next year.

I should like to mention too that good progress has been made on the planning of the More and Darakeswar projects, and that the Hooghly-Howrah Flushing Scheme has been submitted to us by our experts; it is my fervent hope that I shall within a few months be in a position to ask the House for their general approval of that scheme.

In this review of our activities I have dealt with what we may call the preparations for our big offensive, the framing of our strategic plans; and the marshalling of our forces. There is naturally nothing spectacular to show for all these preparations; nor can we point to enormously swollen budgets as a proof of extensive and intensive work behind the lines. But during these last three years there have been some tactical engagements, preliminary skirmishes, affairs of outposts, and considerable reconnaissance. Reconnaissance there has been not only metaphorically but literally, for contour surveys of large tracts of country have been made or are now in progress:—

1,000 square miles between the Ganges, the Jalangi and the Bhagirathi.

2,000 odd square miles between the Bhagirathi and the Ajoy and the highland on the west.

1,200 square miles between the Ajoy and the Damodar and between the Damodar and the Hooghly.

700 square miles between the Damodar and the Darakeswar.

4,720 square miles and more in the northern portions of Barasat and Basirhat subdivisions, the whole of Nadia and the northern and western portions of Jessore. A part of Rajbari will also be surveyed with a view to investigating the feasibility of resuscitating the Chandana.

The general object of these surveys is to obtain information. The information which we want is a collection of facts on the basis of which my advisers can formulate schemes for flushing decadent areas. The contour survey of central Bengal is intended to lead up to a flushing scheme, by the resuscitation of moribund spill channels and the diversion through them of a substantial portion of the flood waters of the Ganges.

A skeleton scheme for the area lying between the Bhagirathi and the Jalangi rivers of which the contour maps are ready has been prepared and the preparation of a scheme for the rest of the area will be taken up as soon as the survey is completed.

Among the projects which have been taken up I may mention (1) the Bhairab project, Jessore, (2) the Satkhira Khal re-excavation scheme, Khulna, (3) flood protection on the right bank of the Damodar river, Burdwan, (4) excavation and repairs to Khairbani bund, Midnapore, (5) Ranju Bund scheme, Malda, (6) flushing the Bhatui river, Nadia, (7) re-excavation of Jaliabari Khal, Faridpur, (8) re-excavation of the Salda Bil Khal, Dacca. All these works except the Bhairab project, the flood protection scheme and the Bhatui scheme will be completed, we expect, during the financial year. As regards the Bhairab the construction work proper is likely to be completed before the next monsoon. Other works taken up and now in progress will be found enumerated in Appendix A in this department's budget (pages 26 to 32 in the Pink Book).

With regard to the Government of India grant the House may be interested to know that 259 schemes of village communications including waterways have been financed therefrom during the last three years. Most of these have been completed. Sixteen minor drainage and flushing schemes financed in that way have been completed, 10 are in progress and 4 are waiting to be taken up.

Turning, Sir, now to the new works which have been included in the budget for the coming year, I feel that none of these need any special commendation from me and the House will not be reluctant to authorise the proposed expenditure for these projects. I have already mentioned the object of contour surveys and so I do not propose to take the time of the House to make any detailed reference to the works taken in hand. An important extension of the work is the survey which we propose to make in northern Bengal in the coming year. There has been for a long time an insistent demand for the improvement of Tolly's Nulla; the scheme included in the budget aims at relieving the

acute drainage congestion of the Panchannagram area and at facilitating boat traffic in the channel. The Aurora Khal scheme will benefit an area of 36 square miles in the Arambagh subdivision of the Hooghly district which at present suffers severely from inadequate facilities for drainage, and is much affected by the floods of the Damodar river spilling freely over its right bank. The main object of the Bhedra Bil scheme in Rajshahi is to drain the Bhedra Bil, and it should also improve the drainage of the low area served by the Narode river. The District Board of Rajshahi has promised to contribute Rs. 12,000 towards the cost of this scheme which is estimated at Rs. 36,453. The scheme for the reclamation of the silted up Madhumati river from Babuganj to Gora Nalua in the Khulna district (otherwise known as the Chitalmari scheme) is intended to improve the sanitary, drainage, agricultural and navigation conditions of the area served by the *khal*.

I regret that the schemes which my department made ready for draining the Ghuni Jatragachi area in the 24-Parganas, the improvement of Bemorta Khal in Khulna, the Karnapura Khal in Dacca and the re-excavation of a channel from Surjamoni to Khalisakota, Barisal, have had to wait for better times. But even with the postponement of these schemes the total provision for new works and works in progress in next year's budget is Rs. 5,23,000 as against Rs. 4,06,000 in the budget for the current year.

In addition to that sum of Rs. 5,23,000 there is a further Rs. 50,000 which it is proposed to provide for grants-in-aid for local authorities entrusted with the execution of comparatively small schemes of local importance. I feel sure that the House will want me to explain this provision in some detail. I have already referred to the mass of projects of local interest which have been brought to our notice as the result of our reference to district officers and district boards. A provincial organisation responsible to a Minister who in turn is responsible to the Legislature is inevitably slow and ponderous in its movements; it has overhead charges too and it is at a disadvantage in dealing with local labour and exploiting local enthusiasm. Moreover, there is a danger that the preoccupation of a provincial organisation with innumerable projects of little or no provincial interest will distract its attention, and the attention of Government and the Legislature, from the major problems which are of vital interest to the province as a whole.

Our view then is that the responsibility for the initiation, preparation and execution of small schemes relating to irrigation and drainage should rest with district boards. To ensure that schemes so undertaken do not conflict with the general policy of Government and to enable boards to get expert advice it has been proposed that they should be approved generally by the local Executive Engineer of the Irrigation Branch. It is realised that district board engineering staffs do not ordinarily include personnel who have had any experience of

irrigation work and that it would probably be necessary for a board which was prepared to carry out an extensive programme, to have the whole-time services of an officer not below the rank of overseer who had been adequately trained in and placed at its disposal by the Irrigation Department. It is also realised that many district boards are not likely to undertake further responsibilities than those which have hitherto devolved on them without some augmentation of the funds now at their disposal. It has therefore been suggested that the initial cost of any schemes executed by a district board should be met to the extent of two-thirds from provincial revenues, the balance being met from the board's funds or local contributions, and the maintenance charges would have to be paid by the board.

As this is a matter which vitally concerns the district boards, we are at present waiting for their views. Honourable members will find that the proposed grant is only on an experimental measure, as the first steps towards decentralisation of minor irrigation schemes of purely local importance. The idea behind this scheme, as I have already explained, is that the new system should grow naturally, expanding under the watchful eye of the Legislature, as local bodies obtain more experience, and as more resources become available.

Sir, I trust what I have said has given the House the information which it desires to have when considering the demand for Irrigation during the coming year. As I said last year, I claim no spectacular results; but I submit that we have followed up the outlines of a comprehensive policy energetically though cautiously against tremendous odds and I feel fairly optimistic about the future.

With these words, Sir, I invite criticisms from my honourable friends, and I trust I shall be able to satisfy them in my reply.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, may I draw your attention to a circular letter placed on our table—I mean circular letter No. 62(250)L.A., dated the 19th March, from the Secretary, accompanying which there is a copy of a letter from the Home (Police) Department, No. 605(2)Pl. I submit that this is rather irregular for your department to place as a communicating channel any letter of the Police or Home Department for the information of the members. If the House has got to take cognisance of the subject, the only procedure would have been for the Secretary to invite the House, as per Rules of the Assembly, to a certain procedure for sending amendments to the Motor Vehicles Rules. I submit, Sir, that the requirements of the Act, so far as section 134(*iii*) of the Indian Motor Vehicles Act is concerned, have not been complied with and cannot be complied with by the method adopted. Sir, will you kindly take steps to see that the Act is complied with properly and a date is fixed for discussion of the Rules on the floor of the House so that this may not be evaded in the manner in which it is sought to be evaded.

Mr. SPEAKER: What I suggest is to take up the matter after the prayer interval when I shall send for the Hon'ble Home Minister. I do realise there are some difficulties and that is why the circular letter has been placed on your tables.

Unfortunately, we have got to finish two demands to-day and, I think, the Irrigation demand should be finished by 6-15 p.m. Then we have got the Civil Works which will have only about one hour and fifteen minutes left in which to finish it. So, will it not be better if there be only general discussion instead of taking up the cut motions separately? In view of the shortness of time, I would also suggest that the speakers would each try to finish in 8 minutes

Mr. MD. ABUL FAZL: Sir, we would like to move our cut motions and further we would prefer to have 10 minutes each to speak.

Mr. SPEAKER: But you realise that there are so many speakers from different groups. So, I think, it would be better if the movers of cut motions had 8 minutes each.

Mr. MD. ABUL FAZL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 31,60,000 under the head "XVII—Irrigation, etc." be reduced by Rs. 100.

Year after year the urgent necessity of tackling the river problems of Bengal have been stressed on the floor of this House and outside, but it is regrettable that the Hon'ble Minister in charge has not shown any sincere activity in this respect though he has given promises galore. In the course of his speech last year at the Bengal Economic Society, Ashutosh Hall, on the subject of "Bengal's river problem and her economic welfare," the Hon'ble Minister in charge indicated the broad outlines of the river problems that faced them at the present day in Bengal, and the lines on which they proposed to tackle the same and the essential preliminaries that were necessary before they decided to launch a comprehensive policy, attacking the problem on all fronts, engineering and financial, simultaneously, and said that the problem of dead and dying rivers was most acute in Murshidabad, Nadia, Jessore, 24-Parganas and Khulna districts, and that the Barrage Scheme of Sir William Willcocks could not be considered at the present time for financial reasons. "For the time being, therefore," the Hon'ble Minister said, "we shall have to consider less ambitious schemes which can be taken up more expeditiously and are expected to improve immediately the rivers of central and west Bengal." With regard to taking steps in this direction the Minister spoke of having taken up a contour survey of the decadent tracts in central Bengal at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,33,571 with the object of collecting the essential data

required for flushing schemes to be prepared and introduced, and that certain concrete projects such as the scheme for the resuscitation of the Bhairab river in Jessore at an estimated cost of Rs. 2,17,000 have been launched. But from the budget estimate as presented now the contour survey of central Bengal does not appear. In its place "contour survey of central Bengal lying east of Jalangi and Bhagirathi rivers at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,17,881" appears for which a sum of only Rs. 27,000 has been set apart for expenditure next year. Again a sum of Rs. 25,000 has been provided for a new contour survey of north Bengal at an estimated cost of about Rs. 4 lakhs. No money has been provided for the contour survey of central and western Bengal sanctioned in the year 1935-36 estimated to cost Rs. 1,46,000.

Then the other schemes for which money has been provided are:—

	Rs.
(1) Improvement of Tolly's Nulla	1,00,000
(2) Reclamation of Madhumati river in Khulna district ...	25,000
(3) Improvement of the Aurora Khal (Hooghly district)	10,000
(4) Bhairab scheme (Jessore)	65,000
(5) Widening of the bed of Kaliaghye river (Midnapore)	50,000
(6) Flood protection on the right bank of Damodar	28,700
(7) Flushing of the Bhatni river (Nadia)	2,500
(8) Drainage of the Bhedra Bil (Rajshahi)	12,000

Now are these all the less ambitious schemes which are expected to immediately improve the river problems of Bengal? It is all very well to complain of want of funds each year and to try to hoodwink the members of this House and the public of Bengal by presenting fresh estimates at each year's presentation of the budget "as an earnest of the willingness of Government to take up schemes in the districts of Bengal which will benefit the people in a measure more than commensurate with the cost involved," and it is thus that the Government want to put fresh life into the streams that had once been active and had brought health and prosperity to the millions!

This shows that the Hon'ble Minister has been unable to touch even the fringe of the problem. Perhaps the big schemes like the "Eruption-Barrage Scheme" suggested by Sir William Willcocks costing 12 million pounds and of a full-fledged hydraulic research institute is playing in the brain of the Hon'ble Minister and he is probably hoping for the day when on completion of his contour surveys of Bengal some magic wand

will put into his hands sufficient money to complete them and thus win the universal approbation of the people of Bengal for saving them from malaria and for giving plenty to the millions.

I am compelled to say that the Hon'ble Minister completely lacks in imagination. The schemes enumerated above are no less ambitious and are far-fetched in their result. Instead of providing for so much as Rs. 1,05,000 for Barrackpore bridge, Rs. 10,000 for Ultadanga bridge, Rs. 6,000 for Alipore bridge, Rs. 2,000 for Tollygunge bridge, Rs. 4,639 for constructing a screwpile bridge on the Hijli Tidal Canal, and Rs. 2,350 for constructing *pucca* quarters at Panskura for the sectional officer, Irrigation; and instead of losing every year for establishment, maintenance and repairs, etc., of about Rs. 49,000 for dredger "Foyers," about Rs. 12,000 for the dredger "Alexandra," more than Rs. 21,000 for the dredger "Cowley," more than Rs. 3,500 for the dredger "Burdwan" and about Rs. 27,000 for the dredger "Ronaldshay," for all of which dredgers the huge sum of Rs. 1,17,500 has been provided for next year, if instead of squandering the hard-earned money of the people in this way, some definite schemes would have been launched in the second year of the Hon'ble Minister's tenure of office he would have been far better advised. In spite of the Hon'ble Minister's strong feeling expressed in his speech on 28th August, 1937, against retention of these dredgers, he has not yet been able to dispose of them. Some of these schemes which have from the very beginning been put forward by the members of this House and which demanded his immediate attention for the welfare of the people of Bengal are:—

(1) Scheme for averting annual breaches in the embankment in the river Goomti causing destruction of crops annually over a large tract of land in the Tippera district, and of dredging of the river Titash in the same district (Brahmanbaria subdivision).

(2) Dredging of the river Dakatia in the district of Tippera.

(3) Schemes for resuscitation of old rivers of northern Bengal and for drainage of *bils*.

(4) Re-excavating the dying rivers of the district of Murshidabad.

(5) Re-excavating the rivers Kumar, Nabaganga, Kapatakhi, Chitra, Ichhamati, Bhairab and Betna.

(6) Re-excavating the river Karatwa (Rajshahi Division).

(7) Dredging of the Atrai river in the district of Rajshahi.

(8) Excavation of Lohajang-Taltola Canal in the district of Dacca.

(9) Re-excavation of Karnapara Khal in the district of Dacca.

(10) Re-excavation of the old *khal* from Kaliganj to Ramchandrapur Bazar in Muradnagar police-station, Tippera district.

(11) Dredging of the rivers Sarnamathi, Kakrul, and Sathi in the district of Rangpur.

(12) Dredging of river Kana Damodar (Howrah) and of improvement of Kendua field better known as "কেঁদোর মাঠ" (Howrah).

(13) Raising an embankment across Monteurghona Khal in the town of Noakhali and to excavate a new *khal* to the north of the town which will not only save the town, but also make due provision for outlet of water.

(14) Constructing an embankment along the coast of river Meghna to protect the town of Noakhali from erosion.

(15) Re-excavation of Kalidaha Khal in Feni subdivision (Noakhali)

(16) Excavating a drainage canal for Tangra-Bichi Sluice in Diamond Harbour subdivision to river Hooghly.

(17) Re-excavation of the river Ghagra in Dinajpur.

(18) Opening of the mouth of the river Bhagirathi at the confluence of the river Ganges near Chalighata for betterment of irrigation and communication throughout the year

(19) Construction of a sluice gate at the Dalbhanga Bil in the Satkhira subdivision of Khulna district.

(The member at this stage reached the time-limit and resumed his seat.)

Babu MAHIM CHANDRA DAS: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 31,60,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII—Irrigation, etc." be reduced by Rs. 100.

Mr. Speaker Sir, নোয়াখালীর সদস্য হরেন্দ্রবাবুর ছাটাই প্রস্তাবটি আমি উত্থাপন করিতেছি। জলসেচন, জলনিষ্কাসন, জলপথ প্রভৃতি সম্বন্ধে এই বিভাগের অকর্ম্মন্যতার আলোচনা ইহার উদ্দেশ্য। বড় বড় অভিজ্ঞ বিশেষজ্ঞ নিয়োগ করিয়াও কোন বৃহৎ ও ব্যাপক পরিকল্পনা সম্ভব হইতেছে না। এমন কি ছোট ছোট কাজ যেমন নোয়াখালী জেলায় ডাকাতীয়া খাল, কুমিল্লা জিলার গোমতী খালের বাঁধ এবং চট্টগ্রাম জিলার ধুচং খাল সংস্কারের কোন ব্যবস্থা হইতেছে না। ডাকাতিয়া খাল সম্বন্ধে জেলাবোর্ড এক পরিকল্পনা প্রস্তুত করিয়াছেন। সে সম্বন্ধে কোন সিদ্ধান্ত করিবার অবসর Expert গণের মিলিতেছে না। ইহার প্রতি মন্ত্রীমহাশয়ের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করার উদ্দেশ্যেই এই ছাটাই প্রস্তাবের সৃষ্টি।

১৯০১ সালে ভারত গবর্ণমেন্টের একটি Irrigation Commission বসে এবং তাহার ফলে সিন্ধু, পাঞ্জাব ও মাদ্রাজে সেচ কার্য্যের প্রতিষ্ঠা হয়।

বড় দুর্ভাগ্যের কথা, এই বর্ষণ বহুল দেশে, নদী মাতৃক দেশ বলিয়া এখানে সেচ বিভাগের প্রয়োজন কোথায় এমন কথাও শুনা যায়। কিন্তু বাংলা দেশে সরকারী অন্যান্য Department এর ন্যায় প্রকৃতির "মেঘ" Department ও কম খামখেয়ালী নহে। যখন যেখানে জলের প্রয়োজন নাই তখনই সেখানে প্রচুর বর্ষণের দ্বারা বন্যা ঘটাইয়া সর্ব্বনাশ সাধন করা আবার যখন

যেখানে জলের খুব প্রয়োজন তখন সেখানে অনাবৃষ্টি ও জলাভাব বশতঃ মাঠের ক্ষেত মাঠে শুকোনই "ফেল" ডিপার্টমেন্টের কাজ। কেবল মাত্র আকাশের দিকে চাহিয়া থাকিয়া বাংলার কৃষি গেল, স্বাস্থ্য গেল, ধন দৌলত গেল, সামান্য বিপদেও টিকিয়া থাকিবার শক্তি গেল।

১৯১৯ সালের শাসনসংস্কারে irrigation একটি provincial subject বলিয়া গণ্য হইয়াছে, কিন্তু সেচ বিভাগ সৃষ্টি হইয়াও কাজ অপেক্ষা অকাজ করিয়াছেন বেশী। ১৯৩০ সালে হপকিন কমিটি বলিলেন— most of the province viewed as a field for the extension of irrigation is at present an unknown land to the Department. প্রদেশের যে বিস্তৃত অংশ ইরিগেশনের প্রসারের উপযোগী বলিয়া গণ্য ছিল আজ তাহা সেচ বিভাগের নিকট সম্পূর্ণ অজ্ঞাত দেশ। সমগ্র ভারতে সেচ কার্য্যে ১৫০ কোটি টাকা মূলধন খাটিয়াছে। তার মধ্যে এত বড় বাংলাদেশের ভাগ্যে মাত্র কিঞ্চিদধিক ২ কোটি টাকা। তাহাতেও বিশেষ কিছু ফল দেখা যায় না। কেবল লাভের লোভে পাটোয়ারী বুদ্ধি প্রণোদিত ব্যবসায়, যখন লাভজনক হয় না তখন কেবল হায় হায়! নদী সমস্যা হাজামজা নদীর পুনরুদ্ধার, বন্যা সমস্যা, কৃষির জন্য জল সরবরাহ সমস্যা সব সমস্যাই ওতপ্রোত ভাবে সংশ্লিষ্ট। তজ্জন্য চাই ব্যাপক ও বিস্তৃত পরিকল্পনা। বাংলাদেশকে বাঁচাইতে হইলে কোটি কোটি টাকা ঋণ করিয়াও এই সমস্যার সমাধান করিতে হইবে। আশাছিল মহারাজা মণীন্দ্রচন্দ্র নন্দীর উপযুক্ত বংশধর পিতার পদাঙ্ক অনুসরণ করিয়া এই কার্য্যে অগ্রসর হইবেন। কিন্তু তিন বৎসরে হতাশ হইয়াছি। তাঁহার বাজেটে মুঞ্জুরী টাকাও ব্যয় হয় নাই।

নদী সমস্যা—গত বৎসর ভারতীয় বিজ্ঞান সভায় সেচ বিভাগের Chief Engineer Mr. S. C. Mazumdar বলিয়াছেন "Bengal being merely an agricultural country, the rivers are the principal sources of the economic well-being of the people.

The river problems in Bengal are thus virtually the problems of rural development in Bengal and have to be solved, if she has to be saved, specially her western and central parts which even as late as a century ago used to be very healthy and prosperous, forms reversion to swamps and jungles from which she was reclaimed by rivers."

ইহা আমাদের কথা নহে, সমালোচকদের কুকথা নহে, ইহা সরকারের নিজস্ব বিশেষজ্ঞের সুকথা।

বন্যা সমস্যা—এই পরিষদের যুবক সদস্যগণেরও ১৯১৩ সালের বর্দ্ধমান বন্যার কথা স্মরণ আছে আশা করি। ১৯১৮ ও ২২ সালের বন্যার কথাও ভুলিবার নহে। তদুপরি বার্ষিক বন্যা লাগিয়াই আছে। ইহাতে মানুষ ও পশু হানী বাদে শত কোটি টাকার সম্পত্তি ধ্বংস হইয়াছে বাংলার বন্যার ইতিহাস লিখিতে হইলে তাহা শাসকবর্গের দুরপনেয় কলঙ্কই ঘোষণা করিবে। শাসনের নামে বাসন কার্য্যই চলিতেছে।

১৯২১ সাল হইতে সেচ বিভাগ পরিচালনায় ৬ কোটি টাকা ব্যয় হইয়াছে। ইহার শতকরা ৯০ ভাগ অর্থাৎ ৫½ কোটি টাকা establishment খরচা গিয়াছে। সেচ বিভাগ লোকহিতকার্য্যের উপযোগী জল সরবরাহ করিয়াছেন মাত্র।—মন্ত্রীমহাশয় নিজেই স্বীকার করিয়াছেন যে গত ১৭।১৮ বৎসরেও বন্যা ও বন্যা সমস্যা সমাধানের sufficient data মিলে নাই। Sir, William Cox ঠিকই বলিয়াছেন। "As a result of the Department's misapplied activities Bengal is strewn to-day with wrecks of useless and harmful works". মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় ইহাকে স্বরূপ unthinking hurry র দোষ দেখাইয়াছেন। কিন্তু তাহাতে department'এর বিশেষজ্ঞগণের অযোগ্যতা ও অকর্ম্মণ্যতাই সূচিত হইয়াছে।

Think করিতে করিতে ১৭।১৮ বৎসর গ্যাছে, তবুও unthinking hurryর কথা উঠে কেন? ইহাকে thinking sloth বলাই উপযুক্ত। তবু মন্ত্রীমহাশয় আশা দিয়াছেন বিরাট ও বিস্তৃত পরিকল্পনা প্রস্তুত হইতেছে। এতগুলি সমস্যা—প্রত্যেকটি বিরাট ও বিস্তৃত—প্রত্যেকের জন্য বোর্ড আছে বোর্ডের বিশেষজ্ঞ আছে কিন্তু কেহ কাহারও অনুগামী নহেন। তাহারা মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের জন্য একটি ব্যূহ চক্র ও চক্র ব্যূহ রচনা করিতেছেন। এই ব্যূহ ভেদ করিয়া অগ্রসর হইতে পারিবেন কি মহারাজ? তজ্জন্য চাই অটল সংকল্প, বুকে অপরিমিত সাহস। পারিবেন কি মহারাজ? রেল কম্পানি বাধা দিবে। Steamer Company অন্তরায় সৃজন করিবে। মন্ত্রীমণ্ডল উদ্বিগ্ন হইবে। অর্থ-সচিব আপত্তি জানাইবে। তবুও পারিতে হইবে; বাঙ্গালাকে বাঁচাইতে হইলে এই সকল বাধা লঙ্ঘন করিতে হইবে। কিন্তু পারিলেও তাহা কার্য্যে পরিণত দেখিব, ততদিন সংসারে থাকিতে পারিব বলিয়া ভরসা করিতে পারিতেছি না। তবুও ইহার আরম্ভ দেখিয়া যাইতে পারিলে জীবন সফল মানিব।

তথাপি ইতি মধ্যে কিছু—

(Here the member having reached his time-limit resumed his seat.)

Babu PREMHARI BARMA: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 31,60,000 for expenditure under the heads "XVII—Irrigation, etc." be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, Government is callously indifferent in matters of irrigation. Bengal is an agricultural country, and almost 95 per cent. of the people depend on agriculture, but in spite of this fact Government do not take necessary steps for improving the method of agriculture by irrigational works. The people have solely to depend on rain waters for carrying out the works of agriculture. The activities of the Irrigation Department are mainly confined to works of maintaining some canals in west Bengal and south Bengal, and no work up till now has been done in north Bengal as if this department exists only for west and south Bengal. The only thing that we see in this year's budget is that a provision has been made for contour survey in north Bengal, and from the budget speech of the Hon'ble Minister we learn that Rs. 4 lakhs will be spent and out of this Rs. 4 lakhs only Rs. 25,000 will be spent next year. Thus if Rs. 25,000 a year is spent, this contour survey will take not less than 16 years, and we do not know when the major irrigational projects will materialise. So, Sir, instead of confining the works of this department only to the maintenance of some canals in west and south Bengal, this department should also see that some irrigational projects are taken up for north Bengal also.

Again, Sir, we find in this year's budget that a sum of Rs. 50,000 has been provided to be distributed to the district boards of Bengal for small irrigational projects. There are 27 districts in Bengal, and if a sum of Rs. 50,000 is distributed among all the district boards, not even Rs. 2,000 will be allotted to each district board. What will then a district board do with this paltry sum of less than Rs. 2,000? If the Government wants to place on the district boards this duty of doing

irrigation works, then what the Irrigation Department itself is doing? It is not carrying out any scheme for real irrigation work or project for the people of Bengal. For want of irrigation work in north Bengal the people of north Bengal have to depend solely upon rain water, and if important crops like paddy, jute, sugarcane, etc., cannot grow for want of rain in time, and if irrigation projects are carried out in north Bengal, then the people of north Bengal will not have to depend upon rain water. So I request the Government to see that necessary steps be taken for carrying out irrigation works in north Bengal as soon as possible.

Sir, in support of Mr. Md. Abul Fazl's amendment for the resuscitation of the dead and dying rivers of Bengal, I also want to say a few words. The problem of resuscitating the dead and dying rivers is a vital one. Bengal is a land of rivers and rivers act as a natural drain for carrying out the filths of the country, but most of the rivers are now dead and some others are on the verge of death. If the filths and dregs of the country are not washed away by the flow of the rivers, then the result will be that various kinds of fell diseases will begin to appear in Bengal and millions of valuable lives will be victims of those fell diseases as they have actually been. Any quantity of quinine, or any number of dispensaries will not be able to cope with the havoc caused by the various kinds of diseases, if the root causes of these diseases are not removed. It is admitted by everybody that the silting up of the rivers of Bengal is one of the root causes of malaria and other diseases. The natural flow of the rivers having dried up the waters cannot flow.

(Here the member reached the time-limit and resumed his seat.)

Mr. ABUL QUASEM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this plea of reform by which the administration of the country has pasesd into the hands of the people was hailed by all of us with high hopes, and we thought that a new era had now begun when our popular Ministers would take bold steps and initiate progressive measures to remove the long felt grievances of the people and carve out a new career of greatness and prosperity on a level with that of the forward nations of the world.

Though we are handicapped in our criticism being supporters of the Government, I do not think I am debarred from speaking my mind and giving my suggestions for whatever they are worth.

Sir, irrigation is the life of agriculture and a means of health and comfort to the rural people. Years ago, Sir William Wilcox made a severe criticism of the Irrigation policy of the Government and pointed out that the problem can be solved only by a great and comprehensive project. Piecemeal projects according to him were ineffectual and dangerous. The then Government did not accept his suggestions and a committee was formed with Mr. Hopkyns as a Chairman to go into

the question again. Although Mr. Hopkins did not agree with Sir William Wilcox on all points, he agreed with him that a comprehensive scheme was necessary to tackle the problem of irrigation.

In the absence of any other scheme I cannot understand why a fair trial should not be given to this scheme. The remedy suggested by the late Sir William Wilcox is not an impracticable one. His proposal was that the rich waters of the river must combine with the flood water to spread over the land and then run back along its different channels keeping the river well scoured and the surrounding areas healthy and fertile with newly deposited silt. As the finance of Bengal is not elastic enough to provide funds at any future date, to further the scheme, out of the ordinary revenue, I propose the launching of a loan of a few crores of rupees to carry out the scheme. Money will be forthcoming to save Bengal from death and desolation. It is a question of life and death to the people and a few crores of rupees is nothing if we can save a nation from the grip of death and desolation.

Representing west Bengal as I do, I cannot forget for a moment that west Bengal has been described by foreign travellers as the "garden of India"—one of the most fertile and flourishing countries in the whole peninsula—and what do we find to-day? The whole of the Burdwan Division has been devastated, because the Government of the past starved the countryside of its water resources in the interest of navigation in the port of Calcutta and by the embankments of the Damodar. The result is that the countryside has assumed a desolate appearance—wherever we go, we meet with pestilential areas where disease, death and desolation reign supreme. The lands which once smiled with health, wealth and prosperity have now been converted into waste lands and jungles fit for the habitation of the denizens of the forest. Who is responsible for this? The bureaucratic administration of the past.

It is surely an irony of fate that while the sister provinces by their unstained effort have succeeded in converting the arid and unfertile waste lands of Upper India into splendid granaries, the world famous granaries of Bengal have turned into unproductive waste lands and swampy tracts well adopted for the creation of germs of various sorts of diseases.

The time of atonement for past delinquencies has now come. We must save the nation from imminent ruin. Sir, raise the requisite loan and we guarantee our wholehearted support. Pray, make an attempt to bring back health and prosperity which has left the country for good. If you really want to save the country, pray, make an honest attempt to resuscitate the dead and dying rivers, rivulets and other waterways. If a loan has got to be raised, do it by all means.

Take up boldly the Hooghly-Howrah Flushing Scheme which I believe is now rotting in the upper shelves of the Secretariat. It will save at least three districts, Hooghly, Howrah and Burdwan, if not more.

A few canal cuttings won't do. Bengal is in the grip of death to-day—malaria, kala-azar, cholera, small-pox and tuberculosis are creating havoc in the country, and what are these due to; the old beds of dead rivers which became stagnant pools during the rain and the silting up of river beds which drained away the water of the surrounding areas are the chief causes which contribute not only to the notorious unhealthiness of the countryside but have also diminished the productivity of the soil. Law and order and free distribution of quinine cannot save a nation. My firm conviction is that if these evils are removed Bengal will once again become a flourishing country with health, wealth and prosperity which have deserted the countryside during the regime of the past bureaucratic Government.

If, however, the Government think that they cannot take the risk of raising a loan of such a big amount under the instruction of their officers, who, if I am not mistaken, have not yet been able to change their angle of vision, I would request the Government to take up innumerable small schemes in which the countryside is vitally interested and if these small schemes are taken up in hand at once, it will render a great service to those parts of the country which are affected by them.

Here I would pause for a moment to pay tribute to the Hon'ble Minister in charge for providing Rs. 90,500 this year for the excavation of the Aurora Khal in Arambagh subdivision—a small mercy though, and yet one which we did not get before. However, I am pleased to hear the Hon'ble Minister who has given assurance in his opening speech to adopt the course suggested by me in my previous paragraph.

From this point of view I can say that Hooghly and some other district boards are quite willing to come forward with similar schemes provided encouragement in the shape of financial aid is received from the Government.

Last of all, I think, Sir, that the time has come when something should be done for improving the waterways and drainage channels. Those of us who have had experience of eastern waters in the past know the tremendous difficulties we have got to face there if we let the present state of things continue. The water-hyacinth, for example, has become a serious menace to eastern Bengal, and I request the Hon'ble Minister to do away at least with this water-hyacinth pest even if nothing else can be done. So far as west Bengal is concerned, I think the policy should be, if the bigger scheme is not

thought fit to tackle, to reclaim the smaller channels, not that these dying rivulets should be in such a condition as to flood and flush the surrounding areas at all times of the year, but that during the rains they should flush and flood the adjoining lands.

Mr. SYED AHMED KHAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, আজিকার এই ইরিগেশন বাজেট আলোচনা প্রসঙ্গে আমি এই বলিতে চাই যে বাংলার বহু কবি এক সময়ে বাংলা দেশকে সুজলাং সুফলাং মলয়জ শিতলাং শস্য শ্যামলাং বলিয়া অভিহিত করিয়াছেন। আজকার বাংলাদেশ কিন্তু তার সম্পূর্ণ বিপরীত। আজ-কাল আমরা দেখিতে পাইতেছি বাংলাদেশের প্রায় সকল স্থান হইতেই বিশুদ্ধ পানীয় জলের অভাব বলিয়া অভিযোগ আসিতেছে। এবং নদ-নদী গুলি মৃতপ্রায় হইয়া গিয়াছে। তাই বাংলাদেশে ভাল ফসল হইতেছে না।

Sir, আসাম, সিলেট, ও ত্রিপুরা হইয়া ডাকাতীয়া নদী নোয়াখালী জেলার রায়পুর থানা দিয়া মেঘনাতে প্রবাহীত। আজ ২।৩ বৎসর ধরিয়া মেঘনার সঙ্গম-স্থলে ডাকাতীয়া নদীর মুখ বন্ধ হইয়া যাওয়াতে ত্রিপুরা জেলার কতকাংশ ও নোয়াখালী জিলার রামগঞ্জ, রায়পুর, লক্ষীপুর প্রভৃতি অঞ্চল জলে ডুবিয়া সমস্ত রকম ফসল নষ্ট হইয়া যায় ও সেখানে সদাসর্ব্বদা দুর্ভিক্ষ লাগিয়া থাকে। গত বৎসর মাননীয় শ্রমীক মন্ত্রী মহাশয় সারওয়ার্দ্দি সাহেব সেখানে গিয়া প্রতিশ্রুতি দিয়া আসিয়াছেন যে সেস্থানে খাল কাটাইয়া জল চলাচলের বন্দোবস্ত করিয়া দিয়া ঐ সকল অঞ্চলের প্রজাদের ধনে-প্রাণে রক্ষা করিবেন, দুর্ভাগ্যের বিষয় এখন পর্য্যন্ত তাহার কিছুই হইল না।

নোয়াখালী সহর সদাসর্ব্বদাই মেঘনার দ্বারা আক্রান্ত হইয়া ভেঙ্গে যাচ্ছে ও জল-প্লাবন দ্বারা সেই সকল অঞ্চলের অধিবাসীদের ধন-প্রাণ বিপন্ন হয়ে আছে। বহু মাইল নদীতে ভাঙ্গিয়া যাওয়াতে হাজার হাজার লোক গৃহ-শূণ্য হইয়া এখন জীবন-শূণ্য হইতে চলিয়াছে। এই সকল দুস্থ গরীব লোকদের সাহায্যের জন্য গভর্ণমেন্ট আজ পর্য্যন্ত কিছুই কচ্ছেন না। খাসমহালে যে সকল জমি আছে তাহা হইতে খাসমহাল কর্ম্মচারীদের নজর-সেলামী এমন কি মন্ত্রীদের সুপারিশ পত্র নিয়ে অনেক বড়লোকই জমি পাইয়াছেন কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় যাঁরা নদী-ভাঙ্গা জমি-শূণ্য তাহাদের কোন জমিই দেওয়া হচ্ছে না। আমি আশা করি গভর্ণমেন্ট এই সকল সর্ব্বহারা নদী-ভাঙ্গা অসহায় লোকদিগকে বিনা সেলামীতে জমীন বন্দোবস্ত দিয়া ইহাদের আসন্ন মৃত্যুর হাত হইতে রক্ষা করুন এবং নোয়াখালী খালে বাঁধ দিয়া অথবা অল্প ব্যয়ে একটি খাল কাটাইয়া নোয়াখালী জেলার অধিবাসীগণকে মৃত্যুর হাত হইতে রক্ষা করুন। Sir, নোয়াখালী হইতে একটি খাল চৌমুহনী হইয়া লক্ষীপুর, ভবানীগঞ্জ, রায়পুর, রামগঞ্জ, সোনাপুর ও সোনাইমুড়ি হইয়া পুনরায় চৌমুহনীতে আসিয়া একত্র হইয়াছে। সেই খালটিকে ভাল করিয়া কাটাইয়া দিয়া নোয়াখালীবাসী ১৮।১৯ লক্ষ গরীব নর-নারীকে রক্ষা করিতে আমি মন্ত্রীমহোদয়কে অনুরোধ করিতেছি। এবং রায়গঞ্জ, হাতীয়া, সন্দীপ, বুড়ির চর প্রভৃতি দ্বীপ অঞ্চলের চতুর্দ্দিকে বাঁধ দিয়া সমুদ্রের লবনাক্ত জলরাশী হইতে ঐ সকল অঞ্চলের অধিবাসীদের জায়গা-জমি ও ধন-প্রাণ রক্ষা করিতে আমি সদাশয় গভর্ণমেন্টকে অনুরোধ করিতেছি।

Sir, নোয়াখালীর জন্য আজ পর্য্যন্ত গভর্ণমেন্ট কিছুই করেন নাই। সেখানে গভর্ণমেন্টের ব্যয়ে রাস্তা-ঘাট, শিল্প-বানিজ্য, ইত্যাদি কিছুই করা হয় নাই। সোনাইমুড়ি কটন-মিল এবং লক্ষীপুরের পাটের ও কাঠের factoryকেও গভর্ণমেন্টের সাহায্য করা উচিৎ।

Sir, বাংলার সমস্ত নদ, নদী, খাল, বিল ইত্যাদি দিয়ে সদাসর্ব্বদা জল চলাচল হেতু বৃষ্টির জল ও প্লাবন এবং আসাম প্রভৃতি পাহাড় অঞ্চলের চলের বিরাট জল এই বাংলাদেশের অসংখ্য নদ, নদী, বিল, খাল ইত্যাদি বহন করিয়া বঙ্গসাগরে নিয়া যাইত আবার সমুদ্র হইতে বিশুদ্ধ জোয়ারের জল ঐ সকল নদ, নদী, দিয়া দেশে প্লাবিত হইত। এবং সেই জলের সঙ্গে প্রচুর

পলী-মাটি আসিয়া দেশের জমিকে উর্বরা করিত। এইরূপে জল চলাচলের দরুণ দেশের লোকের স্বাস্থ্যও ভাল থাকত এবং প্রচুর পরিমাণে ফসলও ফলিত। তাই কবি বলিয়াছিলেন সুজলাং সুফলাং মলয়জ শিতলাং শস্য শ্যামলাং।

Sir, এই নদ-নদীগুলি আজ যে মৃতপ্রায় হইয়া জল চলাচলের ক্ষমতা রহিত হওয়ায় দেশের জল-বায়ু, আবহাওয়া, স্বাস্থ্য, শিক্ষা, সভ্যতা এমন কি মানুষের মনুষ্যত্ব পর্যন্ত নষ্ট হইতে বসিয়াছে। ইহার জন্য দায়ি একমাত্র এই দেশের জমিদারী-প্রথা। জমিদারগণ তাহাদের অধিনস্থ স্থান-সমূহের নদ, নদী, খাল, বিল, প্রয়োজন মত খনন করিয়া দেন না এবং সেই সকল——

(Here the member having reached his time-limit resumed his seat.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not feel like speaking on these cut motions, because I thought that any suggestion coming from the opposition would meet with the same fate that it had met with hitherto. But the observations made by the Hon'ble Minister repeating the same old arguments, the same old pathetic story, the same old promises, make me feel that unless one or two members get provoked to speak on one or two most vital matters like Irrigation, the whole budget demand, the whole budget discussion is going to be a tame affair and the House must be allowed to know something about the feelings of members. Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has not only repeated the same old arguments that we have heard year after year, but he has not improved upon the arguments even by a jot or tittle. In the year 1930 or even earlier when special committees were made to enquire into the irrigation problems, we had certain definite recommendations about comprehensive irrigation schemes. To-day after ten long years after the report of the Hopkyn's Committee we find that the Government have not only not gone further but have gone on a retrograde step. Sir, the trouble is that Government do not know where to begin and how to spend the money. The Hon'ble Minister in charge has said that he has not undertaken the scheme for a hydraulic research laboratory for want of funds. I do not know if the Hon'ble Minister knows from his own budget how much money was allotted in that budget from year to year, and he has not been able, or his so-called advisers have not been able, to utilise the money because of either want of knowledge on their part or for want of Government sanction. Sir, in the year 1937-38 for certain contour surveys in Bengal a sum of Rs. 79,000 was allotted, but nothing was spent out of that. For the Waterways Board in 1937-38 Rs. 1,25,000 was allotted and in each of the subsequent two years Rs. 2,50,000 was allotted, but nothing was spent out of the same. Sir, it is presumed that this Waterways Board has had to be dropped because of some opposition from the European section of the House. I do not know how far that is true, but my own impression is that the whole scheme of the Waterways Board, based upon improving the waterways for navigation only, without regard to irrigation and other

problems, that is a scheme merely to look after the navigation problem of certain sections of Bengal, was ill-conceived, and it was bound to be a failure even from the beginning. If that is the position, I do not know why Government should not come forward with an amendment of the Act by virtue of which the Waterways Board was going to be constituted. Instead of doing that we find that the whole amount was withdrawn quietly and the Government think they have done their duty as far as they could do. We had numerous small schemes, large schemes, and major schemes to be tackled, beginning from the big irrigation project of Birbhum, and Hooghly and Howrah, right up to the project of improving a small canal near the residence of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister, which has got a small amount of money allotted this year. The big schemes have all been left out and for small schemes wherever Government could find a little bit of opportunity for patronage or help and hope to get a little bit of support for the Ministry, or where some influential members of the Cabinet could press, they have allotted Rs. 5,000, Rs. 6,000 or Rs. 8,000. This is certainly no proof of following a policy, and is a retrograde step which we want to criticise as strongly as possible. Sir, we have been told that a contour survey is essential before any large scheme can be undertaken. We are also told that before we can have any comprehensive policy, we must first of all have River Training Laboratories and Research Laboratories. Where is the Hydraulic Research Laboratory that we have been hearing of for the last few years? The Hon'ble Minister in charge has stated that a Punjab expert came here and he spent money and the Government have very thankfully acknowledged the services of the officer lent by the Punjab Government. But could he not allot even half a lakh to give effect to that scheme? What prevented Government from allotting money for that scheme if it is one of the most essential things without which the irrigation problems of Bengal cannot be tackled at all? I charge the Government with positive inaction. On the contrary, I find that the Hon'ble Minister in charge's so-called adviser, the expert of the department, has been enjoying a special lecturership at the University of Calcutta for speaking or lecturing on irrigation and drainage problems. Does he know that he cannot possibly justify his position as Chief Engineer, Irrigation Department, unless he can come forward with a definite proposal which will help Bengal and solve the problems of Bengal in different parts of the province? Mere publicity and lecturing in the University will not satisfy the House in this connection at all. The most important thing that I want to draw your attention to in this connection is this: we have been pressing and members of every group have been pressing the Government from time to time to undertake small and big irrigation projects in different parts of the country, but Government have very ingeniously tried to

shut out all future discussions in this House by proposing that most of these schemes will be handed over to district boards. The proposal for decentralisation of small irrigation works has been mooted before us to-day. But what will be the net effect? As soon as all these works will be handed over to district boards, we will not have any opportunity of raising questions thereon in the House and the Hon'ble Mr. Speaker will say, "These are the responsibility of district boards and you are not allowed to discuss these matters any more." That appears to be the only policy behind the proposed scheme of decentralisation, for otherwise, if it were a sincere attempt to make district boards take up those schemes which would be for the benefit of the districts themselves, then only a paltry sum of Rs. 50,000 would not have been allotted for this purpose. On the basis of Rs. 50,000 for 26 districts, we have less than Rs. 2,000 allotted for each district. Do you expect any scheme—major or minor or even a domestic scheme of any particular Minister near about his own village—can be undertaken for any sum less than Rs. 2,000? I charge Government with criminal negligence for neglecting schemes which are for the benefit of the country. I have already made my general observations on the Irrigation Department in previous years which I do not want to repeat.

(Here the member reached his time-limit and resumed his seat.)

Mr. DAVID HENDRY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, last year when this grant was being discussed, the main cause of criticism against the Irrigation Department was the temporary and unsatisfactory nature of much of the organisation of its staff. From enquiries made recently, however, I gather that these flaws have been removed. Permanent divisions and permanent circles have been created with the object of giving more permanence to the work of irrigation in Bengal and with a view to working out more long range schemes than have hitherto been attempted. The department also is evidently prepared to spend more money.

At first glance, the budget appears to show that the total grant this year is less than what it was last year by something like Rs. 2½ lakhs. That, however, is misleading, because in last year's budget there was a provision made but not spent, as Dr. Sanyal has reminded us, of Rs. 2½ lakhs, for the Waterways Board. The Waterways Board, Dr. Sanyal has also told us, was opposed by the European Party. The European Party did not oppose the setting up of the Waterways Board.

A further grant from the Central Government last year was included in the budget amounting, I think, to something like Rs. 1½

lakhs, But taking out the money budgeted last year, for the Waterways Board and the grant from the Central Government, the net result is that the money to be actually spent by the Irrigation Department this year is over a lakh of rupees more than last year—a lakh and rupees ten thousand. Half of that is to be spent on small schemes worked out by the Irrigation Department itself; the other half is for instituting the interesting experiment of decentralisation which might be approved or condemned, depending upon how one looks at it. For a long time, Sir, decentralisation has, in the opinion of many people, been carried to excessive lengths in the matter of roads. But so far as irrigation is concerned, I think that this interesting experiment deserves our greatest approval. The amount of money which is going to be frittered away upon it—if it is to be frittered away—is very small and amounts only to half a lakh of rupees; and half a lakh of rupees out of a total budget demand of Rs. 35½ lakhs is not such a serious item as to lead to the accusation of Government of "criminal negligence" as, I think, was done by Dr. Sanyal. Well, Sir, we approve of these small grants-in-aid to district boards in order to widen the scope of Irrigation and particularly to enable the carrying out of highly necessary schemes in the districts themselves. There is, at the same time, a very great need for careful technical control. Irrigation is definitely a matter in which the technical expert plays a very important part. Unless these small schemes are carefully scrutinised by the technical experts of the department, there is a danger of the money being frittered away. The fact that these small schemes should be carefully examined by the technical experts of the Irrigation Department does not mean that the Irrigation Department itself will not be relieved of a great deal of work which they will be able to devote to the larger and more long-range schemes which have not hitherto received the attention which they ought. Having vetted the small district board schemes, the Irrigation Department will thereafter be relieved of the tedious and detailed supervision which takes up so much of their time at the present time. On the whole, this experiment of decentralisation with proper technical control ought to receive our general approval and, anyhow, it ought to receive a chance.

Another question which arises in connection with the small district board irrigation schemes is the keen competition between district and district for a share of these grants-in-aid. That is going to be a very difficult matter to settle and the only unbiassed and fair way to settle the allocation of these grants as between district and district is to get it done by the Chief Engineer of the Irrigation Department himself. After all, these schemes should be vetted from the point of view of their efficiency, their likelihood of giving a good return on the money spent and so on and these will depend upon their technical feasibility or

advisability, and the man who is in the best position to give a final opinion upon these is the Chief Engineer who will be guided by technical and non-sectional or non-factional considerations.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: And non-ministerial consideration!

Mr. DAVID HENDRY: I would commend to the Ministry the suggestion that the allocation for these schemes should be made by the Chief Engineer of the Irrigation Department himself. One result of this expenditure on small district schemes will be that the total amount of money spent on irrigation in the districts will be greatly increased. Rs. 50,000 will not in itself represent the total amount of money spent on district board irrigation schemes. After all, this has to be divided into grants-in-aid and the district boards will have to find money to augment the grants-in-aid, and they will also be able to get free labour or labour at a cost lower than what the Irrigation Department pays for it. The final result will be that much useful work will be done which otherwise might not be undertaken. But as these grants-in-aid become better known and more and more popular, there will be an increase in demand for them from year to year. I am optimistic about the results of decentralisation for irrigation schemes, and, I think, it may be taken for granted that more money will be needed for grants-in-aid in future and this can best be obtained by putting existing irrigation schemes on a paying basis.

(Here the member reached the time-limit and resumed his seat.)

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Sir, so far as irrigation is concerned, it is generally believed that only West Bengal requires irrigation, but so far as East Bengal is concerned, both the present Ministry as well as the old bureaucratic Governments that ruled the country before generally do or did not take any notice of East Bengal in this respect. In East Bengal, there are many rivers, *khals* and *beels* which have been silted up or have become decadent. These rivers, *khals* and *beels* require very small amounts of money for their excavation and they may be put in proper condition by undertaking what are called minor irrigation projects which will not cost Government more than Rs. 1,000, 2,000 or 3,000 each, but still Government do not pay any attention to these minor schemes. Though we find in the Budget Statement as well as in the Red Book that there are several schemes which have been taken up for West Bengal, nothing appears either in the Red Book or in the Financial Statement to show that Government are taking any notice of the minor irrigation projects in East Bengal. In East Bengal the main problem is that many of the small *khals*, *beels*

and also rivers have become dead and unless they are re-excavated and there is natural flow of water both navigation as well as agriculture will suffer very seriously. So far as the working of this excavation of the minor irrigation projects is concerned one difficulty has arisen in actual practice. In our subdivision of Kishoreganj there is one river, Narasundari, which has been excavated by voluntary labour and the new *khal* has been named "Nazimuddin Khal" after the Hon'ble Sir Nazimuddin. But subsequently there was a civil suit by the local zemindar because there was some land in the bed of the river which has been recorded in the name of that particular zemindar. He has instituted a suit that this land cannot be taken away without land acquisition procedure. So, though the *khal* has been practically re-excavated, it is going to be stopped.

There is another case in my own subdivision. In the case of river Singua, re-excavation proceeded on voluntary basis. Subsequently there was a civil suit against the Subdivisional Officer and other persons who stopped the re-excavation as a result of that. So what I suggest to Government is that the Government should take the matter seriously in hand and legislate on this matter, so that the areas which were originally water or *khal* Government should have power to excavate them without going through the dilatory process of land acquisition.

There is another *khal* in our own subdivision named Bahadia Khal. There has been a great rivalry between the two parties for the opening of this *khal* and there is another party which wants that the opening of the *khal* should be stopped. So I suggest there should be sluice gate in that particular *khal*.

There is another point to which I want to draw the attention of the Government. There has been recently a bridge constructed over the river Meghna near Bhairab in the subdivision of Kishoreganj. That is telling upon the local people because the natural flow of water has been very much affected and the natural consequence of that is flood and damage of crop and other things. There are bridges also in the Assam-Bengal Railway line which are also causing the same damage. I would draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister to see that these defects are remedied and the railway authorities be informed so that effective steps are taken to stop the recurrence of floods in future.

With these words I resume my seat.

Mr. S. A. COMES: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am taking an active part in the discussion on the grant for Irrigation because I wish to inform the Hon'ble Minister proposing this grant what the people of a portion of Dacca district within the police-station of Nawabgunge feel towards him.

In spite of a monster petition signed by hundreds of Hindus, Muhammadans and Christians submitted to the Minister about three years ago, my address on the subject on the floor of the House last year and letters in the papers recently, the Minister has done nothing to improve the river Ichhamati.

We have begged and prayed that the Government do take steps to keep the river Ichhamati, the stream that joints the Padma with the Dhaleswari, in a navigable condition during the dry season. Full particulars of the inconvenience and loss to thousands of inhabitants that live in the villages on either bank of the Ichhamati, loss to trade and commerce and sufferings caused by disease to the people of the locality have been detailed in the peoples' petition and repeated by me here last year. I do not wish to recite them to-day. These people and I too feel that the Minister in charge of this department has treated us with utter neglect and is continuing to do so. Three out of the five years of this Ministry is almost over. The Hon'ble Minister cannot, I submit, point out any action on his part to convince us that he has not been inactive in this matter. How long, I ask, is this state of apathy to last?

I respectfully ask, "Is there to be no difference between the former Government and the present popular Government? Is this change in name only?"

I know money is required to take the work in hand but a part of the cost can be realised by reasonable toll on boats carrying goods and passengers. I wish to impress on the Hon'ble Minister that it is high time that he did something in this matter. These people have suffered long and very long indeed. I hope the Hon'ble Minister will not allow them to grow desperate.

I hope I have made the position clear to the Hon'ble Minister and I trust he will act promptly to remove this long standing grievance of thousands of people of Dacca district who depend on the navigability of the Ichhamati all the year round for their trade, commerce and sound health.

If the Hon'ble Minister does so, he shall earn the lasting gratitude of thousands of inhabitants concerned.

Mr. P. BANERJI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are tired of hearing "better luck next year" by the Hon'ble Minister during the last three years and talking of "contour survey," "comprehensive schemes" and "preparation of estimates," etc., year after year, but there has been very little faithful performance in this respect as has been pointed out by Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal.

Sir, there has been frequent changes of policy of the Government and also the programme of this department, as we have noticed from the very beginning. With the change of one officer the whole scheme, the whole programme and policy of the department automatically change. Now, Sir, we hear that there will be demolition of all embankments, there will be removal of sluice gates everywhere, with the idea that the low-lying areas in different parts of the countryside will be silted up and therefore every inch of land in the country will be improved and brought on the same footing. That is the present day policy, perhaps going to be inaugurated very recently by Government. This question was also discussed by Mr. T. A. Curry who was brought from the Punjab years ago. The difficulty of the department has been that it always wishes to be consulted by experts. But I would ask the Maharaja to take the common-sense view of things and not depend on expert advice. We have noticed year after year that the experts have proved a failure, particularly in this department. Now, Sir, the Maharaja who is a native of this country, as well as the member of this House, knows intimately well what is the position in the countryside as described by members from different sections. Therefore, it is up to the Maharaja to take suggestions received from those members and act accordingly.

It has been suggested by Mr Hendry that these small schemes should be attended to and there will be decentralisation, and they will depend upon different district boards for their execution. But before that I may suggest to the Hon'ble Minister that a comprehensive scheme must be immediately prepared and each district must be given the part of the scheme within its jurisdiction to work it out as a part of the whole scheme. That is how the whole question can be solved. I have no time to go into details, but speaking from my personal experience I may say that for the last 30 years schemes have been forwarded to Government who referred them to the District Magistrates concerned. Money was deposited in the Collectorate treasuries for survey, but it was lying idle according to a circular issued in 1935. I have got a copy of that circular.

Now, Sir, there was one scheme, which was estimated to cost Rs. 1,27,000, but that was pending from 1935. Another scheme was also approved by Government in the year 1935. But that scheme has also not been worked out up till the present moment. That scheme was estimated to cost Rs. 40,000. We understand that the scheme is again being looked into, and new survey is being made. I talk of Qalarampur and Katakhali schemes in Diamond Harbour subdivision.

This is the state of things going on. As has been pointed out by Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal, it shows sheer apathy on the part of departmental officers who do not care about giving effect to such schemes.

Mr. Hendry has said that he was very optimistic in these matters, because if the district boards take over charge it would be better. I quite agree with him that it would be better worked out by the district boards than by the departmental officers.

There is another point, Sir. A member of the Coalition party suggested—why not take a bold step, have imagination and take a loan? Of course loans can be easily raised. Rs. 30 lakhs were raised by loan some time back. In the countryside, the people are quite willing to pay a cess. A loan of Rs. 30 lakhs was raised on the Magrahat Canal scheme previously. Similarly, if schemes start on that line and Government take a bold stand, I hope within a short time money will be realised, and in this way alone this problem will be solved and not in the happy-go-lucky fashion as the Hon'ble Minister seeks to do at the present moment.

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Sir, I am thankful to the members of this House for their kind criticism and helpful suggestions.

Sir, when I assumed charge of this department, I think I held very similar views to what some of my friends hold to-day, about the solution of the Irrigation problems of the province. But later, studying the question in some detail, I found a mountain-heap of impediments stood in our way. It has been suggested that the problems have been under investigation for the last 17 or 18 years; there was the Hopkyns Committee Report in 1930, there was the suggestions of Sir William Wilcox. But why could we not act up to it? The answer is quite simple. (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Is it?) Sir, during the period which has been mentioned, *i.e.*, during the time of the previous Government, this department was a reserved department, and I have to admit that all these recommendations and suggestions were conveniently shelved in the Secretariat for reasons best known to them and no action was taken (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Hear, hear.) As a result, Sir, problems have been allowed to mount up making easy solution of the problem impossible. Our greatest difficulties, as I have already stated, were about getting the requisite data. But again we were handicapped by the paucity of staff. The department was heavily retrenched by the previous Government. But we made the best of a bad bargain and have collected a certain amount of those data. But Sir, to draw up a scheme to resuscitate the dead and dying rivers of the entire province in two years is expecting something beyond human power.

Mr. M. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Has any beginning been made?

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Certainly Sir, we have made a beginning and have set the ball rolling. We have made a start from the upper reaches of the rivers, and the proposal of forming the River Commission is progressing. We have started the contour survey in right earnest. (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Before grants lapse!) I am not quite sure about the lapsing of grants. (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Make sure!) I am quite sure. Please let me go on. (Laughter I am sorry to find that the opposition will use their obstructive tactics even in a matter like this, where I would have expected their full co-operation and helpful criticism. It is a question of vital interest for the province of Bengal (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: By promises!), and I do hope that the opposition will allow me to proceed and not interrupt.

Sir, the contour survey of West and Central Bengal is almost complete, and it is now proposed to take up the rest of the province by stages.

Sir, it has been suggested that the moneys which have been provided for other purposes such as bridges and canals should be diverted for this purpose. It is a fallacious argument. They have their utility in their respective spheres and money has got to be provided for them just as we have got to do for all the departments. Considering the magnitude of the problem the money provided, I admit, is much too small. As I stated elsewhere, even if the entire revenue of Government could have been spent for the purpose, it would have touched a fringe of the problem (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Spend whatever money you can get And who will spend the money? You cannot spend it.) I deny the charge.

Sir, a reference has been made to my paper called "Bengal's River Problem and her Economic Welfare" in which I stated that before the contour survey of the entire province is completed we will proceed with what is called the minor irrigation schemes, because we can ill-afford to wait for it. In spite of our best efforts the contour survey of the entire province, I am afraid, will take some time to be finished (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Finish with Greek Calends!) The reason is obvious. Paucity of trained staff, shortage of the working season and the vastness of the province are factors which cannot be brushed aside. We are considering a comprehensive scheme for those portions of the province in which the contour survey has already been completed. Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: When will the scheme be ready? And where is the budget provision for it?) (Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Don't interrupt but co-operate!) (Laughter.) (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Co-operate in promises!)

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(*After adjournment.*)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, are you going to put the motions now? We on our part however are quite prepared to hear the Hon'ble Minister for two or three minutes more if he has anything interesting to say.

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Sir, I am thankful to Mr. Hendry for his words of caution regarding——

Mr. SHAH SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSSAINI: Sir, may I rise on a point of information?

Mr. SPEAKER: After the Hon'ble Minister has finished, not now.

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Sir, I am thankful to Mr. Hendry for his words of caution regarding the technical control over the district boards in the decentralisation scheme. I admit Rs. 50,000 is much too small an amount considering the need of the entire province. It has been provided as an experimental measure, and if we find a good response and the system works well, we would provide for more money. As regards Rs. 25,000 being provided this year for the contour survey of Northern Bengal it does not mean that we are going to spend only Rs. 25,000 out of the total of nearly four lakhs. We hope to spend much more in future years when Central Bengal survey will be over. I am thankful to the members who have given me support in the River Training Laboratory Scheme, and I do hope that funds permitting in the coming year we will be able to see the much desired laboratory an established fact.

With these words, Sir, I am thanking the members again, with this assurance that all the projects of which they have spoken will be looked into. I resume my seat.

Mr. SHAH SYED GOLAM SARWAR HOSSAINI: May I rise now on my point of information? সেচ বিভাগের ভারপ্রাপ্ত মাননীয় মন্ত্রি মহাশয়ের কাছে থেকে জানতে চাই নোয়াখালী জেলার চরমতানী খাল বন্ধ হইয়া গিয়াছে। সেটা কাটিয়া দিবার কোন পরিকল্পনা গভর্ণমেণ্টের আছে কিনা?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry that question cannot arise now.

The motion of Mr. Md. Abul Fazl that the demand of Rs. 31,60,000 under the heads "XVII—Irrigation, etc." be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Babu Premhari Barma that the demand of Rs. 31,60,000 under the heads "XVII—Irrigation, etc." be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion moved by Mr. Mahim Chandra Das that the demand of Rs. 31,60,000 under the heads "XVII—Irrigation, etc." be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

Mr. SPEAKER: All other cut motions fall through. I will now put the main demand.

The motion of the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar, that a sum of Rs. 31,60,000 be granted for expenditure under the heads "XVII—Irrigation—Working Expenses—18—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Ordinary Revenues—18(1)—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from Famine Insurance Fund—19—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works—B—Financed from Ordinary Revenues and 68—Construction of Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works" was then put and agreed to.

Revised time for sitting of the Assembly for 20th March and business after Budget.

Mr. SPEAKER: Before I take up the other demand, I would just like to mention one or two matters and it is this: so long as the Council was sitting we had to sit at 4-45 p.m., but I understand that the Council is sitting in the morning to-morrow. So we would sit to-morrow at 4 o'clock under the new rules, but I do not propose to put any demand to vote before 5 o'clock as it might inconvenience honourable members.

There is another point which has been raised by Dr. Sanyal, and as Sir Nazimuddin is also here, I may mention the matter now. It is this: that the Motor Vehicles Rules should be laid on the table. I, too, am of opinion that the Rules should be laid on the table. I think the Assembly should get an opportunity to discuss the Rules as soon as the remaining budget demands are finished.

Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: You were also to mention something about the dates of our subsequent meetings?

Mr. SPEAKER: Oh, yes. I am feeling rather worried about the dates on which we might take up business after the 29th of March. We are going to sit on the 26th, 27th, 28th and 29th and we have already got a programme for these days. After that I find certain difficulties.

I understand that there are certain Bills passed by this House which are likely to come up, "in ordinary parlance," after the usual seven days' notice has been given. At the same time I do realise that it involves a heavy expenditure of Rs. 3,500 a day for the sitting of this House, and I do not want to have this expenditure unnecessarily incurred if we can help it. Even if Government is not ready with those Bills by that time, yet, if they are ready with all the materials by which honourable members may know what exactly is coming before the House, even though formal notice of any actual date may not be presented, I will try to see whether we cannot expedite the business in any other way as soon as possible after the budget demands are over.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: In this connection, Sir, may we explain the position that we want to take up?

Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, please let me explain first.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, you have said that up to the 29th the budget demands will go on. So I suggest that after that there may be an interval of 7 days which may be utilised for various other things, including the Motor Vehicles Rules. I may submit that during that recess the Motor Vehicles Rules and Non-Official Bills and Resolutions may be taken up.

Mr. SPEAKER: Well, I will try to adjust the business and the time.

Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: May I point out what was the original intention? So far as the Bills are concerned, it is expected that only three Bills might come back from the other House, namely, the Jute Regulation Bill, the Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill——

Mr. SPEAKER: Do you expect any heavy changes will be made in these Bills by the other House?

Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: In respect of the Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill we do not expect any changes, but in regard to the Jute Regulation Bill, I understand there may be some minor changes or, as the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture says, there may be no changes at all. But as far as the Bengal Tenancy (Third Amendment) Bill is concerned, there may be one or two changes. In any case these three Bills are expected to be finished quickly, that is by the 28th. We expect that the Jute Regulation Bill will be over by to-morrow.

Mr. SPEAKER: What I want to ask the Government Whip is this: as soon as the Council has passed the Bills, let him give informal notice to this House that they will be taken up, so that the members may be ready with their amendments.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is there any proposal, Sir, for you to waive the notice period?

Mr. SPEAKER: That I will have to consider.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Let us know that, Sir, definitely, for that is very important.

Mr. SPEAKER: I may, however, waive the usual ten days' notice. If there is enough work to do I do not want to have the Assembly not continuing, but what I suggest is that the gap might be utilised for official and non-official business which is still on the agenda.

Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: The difficulty is that there is not sufficient non-official business.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Many, many.

Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Let me not be understood as trying to deprive the House of considering non-official business.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You have already done that.

Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Excuse me, Sir, we have not done so. Our idea is that if this usual notice of ten days is insisted upon, then the House may be adjourned from the 31st March to the 7th April.

Mr. SPEAKER: Leave the question of notice to me. I know what non-official business is there. Instead of giving a long gap I am for giving a short gap.

Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I suggest, Sir, that a three days' gap may be given if necessary.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: But, Sir, the Motor Vehicles Rules themselves will take up a week.

Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I do not think, Sir, it will take as long a time as that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Well, Sir, we know better.

Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: But, Sir, the opposition members have not been able to carry anything as yet, although they tried to do so.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Sir, the Government Whip may have his own views regarding the non-official business, but we should have no quarrel about this joint conference.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid, the Motor Vehicles Rules will be a heavy affair and so it cannot perhaps be settled on the floor of this House. Would it not therefore be better if the matter be gone into by a small committee? That will probably solve much of the difficulty that may be felt while discussing it in the open House.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: I may inform the House that in the other place that was the procedure suggested and that it seemed to meet with general approval.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: There seems to be a difference of opinion in the Treasury Benches over it and let us not try to make much of it.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is a difference between the Assembly and the Council.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: The whole point is that instead of having a recess, we would certainly prefer to have non-official business. That is the submission we want to make to you.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am in favour of that.

DEMAND FOR GRANT.

50—Civil Works and 81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue.

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Mr. Speaker, Sir. On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 1,50,09,000 be granted for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue."

In addition to the sum which the House is being asked to grant, the budget estimates include a further sum of Rs. 9,63,000 on account

of charged expenditure. This brings the total up to the record figure of Rs. 1,59,72,000. Honourable members will find that this figure exceeds the current year's provision by something like Rs. 44,000. A striking feature of the budget estimates is that the amount provided for establishment is much less than it had been even for the year 1933-34 when total estimates amounted to only Rs. 81½ lakhs. I think it is clear to the House that we are doing practically double the work without any increase in establishment charges.

Sir, the department of this Government which has public works in its charge has the reputation of being extravagant in its methods, its plans, and its work. I suppose that that is a reputation which it shares with the corresponding departments of every Government in the world. The comparatively low proportion of expenditure which goes against establishment shows that our organisation is not unduly expensive. Our rule about the acceptance of the lowest tender ensures that, on whatever rates we may base our estimates (and these rates have been considerably reduced in recent years) the work is done as cheaply as it can be with due regard to the standard on which we insist. It seems then that the only way in which we can reduce costs is by the lowering of our standards. The possibility of this has been under our consideration for some time now, and we have made some progress by providing lower specifications for certain classes of work; the possibility of further reduction is under consideration, as is also the possibility of reducing the amount of accommodation provided in official buildings, particularly in residences. In the matter of tenders, we have also revised our rules which will ensure not only economy but also make it impossible for any one to suggest that the acceptance of tenders is influenced by any extraneous considerations.

Sir, turning now to the estimates for the coming year, I think the House is most interested in the roads which are proposed to be improved at the cost of the Road Development Fund. The total amount provided for expenditure on Road Fund works is Rs. 33,91,000. The House will find that this figure is higher than that incurred in any single year previously. For the sake of bringing out the improvement in a pointed manner, may I put before the House the actual expenditure on road fund works incurred during the last three years?

	Rs.
In 1937-38	13,21,000
In 1938-39	20,94,440

In 1939-40 about Rs. 26¾ Lakhs (revised estimates)

In 1940-41 about Rs. 34 Lakhs

May I claim that this is a considerable improvement since we assumed charge? Another striking feature I should like to mention. There has been a continuous improvement during the last few years as regards the percentage of actuals to the budget estimates. This percentage has risen from only 66 per cent. in 1936-37 to 59 per cent. in 1937-38 and 81 per cent. in 1938-39. In the current year this percentage will be about 90. Sir, I would invite the attention of the House to this rapidly increasing approximation of actuals to estimates which is indeed a good statistical proof of the improvement of our machinery placed in charge of road development works.

I think that there is still a widespread belief that this province has lying at its credit large balances on account of its allocation to Road Development Fund which only bad management keeps it from using. Now, we have just received from the Government of India a statement of the balance which they have standing at our credit. The figure which they give us is just under Rs. 40 lakhs. By the end of this year the balance which had accumulated in our own hands will be exhausted, and thus the sum which I have just mentioned will represent all that we have to draw until the next allocation. I will repeat that figure—about Rs 40 lakhs. During the coming year we expect to spend Rs. 32,70,000. The difference between this figure and the sum of Rs. 33,91,000, the total estimated expenditure, represents the amount which we expect to get from the Government of India for the project in which they are interested. Thus at the end of the coming year we expect that only a little more than Rs. 7 lakhs will be left of the balance which the Government of India now hold for us. In addition to this there will be the amount which we expect will be allocated to us in the course of the year, say, about Rs. 18 lakhs. This will bring the balance at the end of the coming year to about Rs. 25 lakhs. Assuming that during 1941-42 our allocation is again Rs. 18 lakhs and assuming that our expenditure during that year is Rs. 35 lakhs (which I think is a very conservative estimate when regard is had to the increasing rate of our expenditure) our balance two years hence will be not more than Rs. 8 lakhs. Now as we do not get our allotment from the Government of India until about the end of the financial year, any work over Rs. 8 lakhs which we do between April, 1942, and January or February, 1943, will have to be done, not with cash in hand, but in anticipation of our allotment, unless of course the allocation from the Road Development Fund is supplemented by provincial revenues. Even during 1942-43 a supplement from these revenues will be necessary if we are to maintain the pace at which we are now proceeding, and of course after March, 1943, that supplement will have to be bigger still. I shall welcome during the debate which is to follow any suggestions as to how this extra amount can be obtained.

The projects on which it is proposed to spend Road Development Fund money during the coming year have been enumerated in the budget, and I would invite your attention in this connection to pages 32-35 and pages 66-69 of the Brown Book. Perhaps a clearer idea of the work that has been done and will be in progress next year, if the House approves, can be more clearly visualised by a reference to the map which has been placed in the library. One thing about that map which will, I think, strike honourable members who are keenly interested in this subject is that except in the vicinity of Calcutta where conditions are special, the roads which we have done or on which we are working or about to work, practically all run at right-angles to railways. From this I think it will be clear that we are increasing facilities for the transport of agricultural produce to the main lines of communication of the province. This, as I said last year, was one of the points of our policy, a policy which I may say, was placed before the Provincial Board of Communications and met with unanimous approval. The roads, it will also be seen, are at present inter-district or intra-district but are also capable of being linked up into a system of all-Bengal interest.

Sir, in my Budget speech last year, I explained to some extent the lines on which we propose to frame our road programme for Bengal on the basis of Mr. King's report. That policy we have been pushing on with vigour, and we have to our credit more economy in working, an efficient machinery prepared for additional responsibilities, and a virtual exhaustion of the outstanding balances lying with the Government of India. With these words, Sir, I beg to move my demands.

Mr. MD. ABUL FAZL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,50,09,000 under heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100.

We have known throughout the ages that the country which has progressed is the country which has built a network of good roads run by an efficient and businesslike department. Here in Bengal we know that except roads this department undertakes mostly works at the requisition of other departments. Within that handicap let me examine how far this department has been able to attain its end. From the budget it will be seen that out of the total demand of Rs. 1,50,09,000 a sum of Rs. 30,08,000 only has been provided for communication, original works and repairs, and for buildings Rs. 61,16,000 has been provided. Under the latter head, the Hon'ble the Finance Minister has in his budget statement made special mention of certain sums of money allotted for certain works, by which the needs of the police, military and the rich have overriden the needs and interests of the people not only in this, but in building projects, also. In his speech on the budget in September, 1937, Khan Bahadur Fazlul

Quadir who had more than 30 years' experience in the Registration Department drew the pointed attention of the Hon'ble Minister to the difficulties of the sub-registrars and of their clerks, muharrirs and peons with regard to their housing arrangement. How the sub-registrars who are the representatives of Government in villages, and who command the respect of the public and who are doing much for rural uplift, live miserably in rented houses! How some of them have to live in bazars like shopkeepers and some of their offices located in the bazar like shops! Government spend Rs. 47,000 as rent for these offices and quarters. If Government buildings were constructed for these, there would be a saving of about a lakh of rupees annually. But what has the Government done in this respect? Out of 383 offices, building arrangement has been made for only 20 offices since 1937, making a total of about 43 offices; the remaining 340 offices are still being held in rented houses. Provision for only two new buildings has been made for the next year, one at Rangpur and the other at Midnapore, and sums of Rs. 12,150 for the one and Rs. 14,600 for the other have been provided. About the buildings for sub-registrars and their offices, Government generally try to provide large sums. If instead Rs. 4 to 5 thousand are spent for these combined quarters and buildings providing for *pucca* plinth and wall, with corrugated iron for roof with wooden ceilings, this will answer the purpose admirably, and Government will be able to provide for a large number of such buildings every year. The Hon'ble Minister gave assurance in August, 1937, of taking great care to enquire into specific instances of corruption and to deal with these cases with the utmost severity according to the nature of each case. But hitherto no care seems to have been taken by the Hon'ble Minister to enquire into these cases.

I have no hesitation in saying that broad daylight plunders of the money of this department in execution of works and repairs are being perpetrated not only by contractors, but by the officers of the department from peon to some of the Executive Engineers under the very nose of the higher officers and of the Hon'ble Minister.

Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has amended the rule and issued orders that tenders must be invited in the cases of works, whether original or repairs, the cost of which is more than Rs. 1,000 and general orders have been given for acceptance of lowest tenders except in special cases where the officers have to state reasons for acceptance of higher tenders: also orders have been issued for maintaining approved lists of contractors separately for different kinds of work. Scheduled rates of the department have also been prepared up to 1938 of which a copy I have got.

Now, Sir, the schedule of rates is made on the basis of the prevailing market rates of materials and labour keeping a margin of 10 per cent. as profit for contractors. Since the assumption of office by the

Hon'ble Minister tenders are being accepted at such a low rate as 39 per cent. below scheduled rates in all divisions.' For want of time I am unable to give instances of such cases.

Now, Sir, the question is how can the contractors manage to finish the work with such low percentage of rates. For the last few years the rates of materials have gone high, and it is simply impossible for these contractors to supply approved materials on such low rates. A few instances of the prices of materials and labour could have been cited but for want of time I am unable to do so.

On enquiry, Sir, I have learnt that the contractors have to pay a lump sum money as gratification to some of the Executive Engineers to get big works according to their value. Then they have to pay about 12 per cent. for final approval of the works finished by them to the different officers of the department——

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Will the honourable member take the responsibility for the statement that money was paid to the officers of the department?

Mr. MD. ABUL FAZL: Yes, I take full responsibility

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Will he be able to say that outside the House?

Mr. MD. ABUL FAZL: Yes.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Yes, both inside and outside this House.

Mr. MD. ABUL FAZL: Now, Sir, if a contractor has to work on a 39 per cent. less tender and has to pay 12 per cent. for office expenses, it comes to 51 per cent. less, besides lump sum gratifications to some Executive Engineers. Out of this work he wants to make a profit also. So what can this process be called except broad daylight plunder of public finances?

The highly paid and qualified engineers who give these works and approve of them are either incompetent or thieves and there are many such officers by whom this department is run.

An enquiry into the financial condition of the officers of the department from Executive Engineers down to overseers will show what large bank balance they have got, investments of money in shares and real property they have made, and house and landed properties they have acquired in spite of their legal limited income. As for the list of contractors prepared and published by the Executive Engineers it will be seen that those contractors who have got relations in the department

generally of the higher ranks have got their names in. This is nepotism of the worst type. The contractors who try to work conscientiously and honestly have carefully been excluded from the list. Discrimination has also been made against Muslims in enlistment and classification. I have got figures to show what rabid communalists some of these departmental officers have been in the matter of classification and distribution of work in the Presidency, Central, Northern and Eastern Circles, where percentage of Muslim contractors are 16·9 per cent., 16·6 per cent., 13·2 per cent. and 39·11 per cent. respectively. It is understood that this classification has been made on the working of the last three years, according to the work done by each contractor. But Muslims have been hardly given any work for the last three years and the small amount of work given to them were of less value. So, Sir, that has been made a plea for non-inclusion of Muslim contractors in the higher classes. No less than 48 Muslim contractors who had been getting some work previously were excluded from the list in spite of the letter No. 1090-A., dated 1st April, 1939, from the Secretary of this Department to the Chief Engineer, Bengal, Communication and Buildings, for taking care about enlisting men from all communities adequately with special reference to the enlistment of Muslims in large numbers. This letter has totally been ignored and has been respected more in the breach than in its observance. Here I have got a list of 48 names that have been excluded. Muslims are entitled to get at least 50 per cent. of the work and if separate lists are made for each community and work distributed according to their claim, no objection can be raised. All this will go to show that the department has not only been a public waste department but a department for plunder without detection.

With these words I now commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. KAMAL KRISHNA ROY: মাননীয় সভাপতি মহাশয়, পূর্ত্তবিভাগের ব্যয়-বরাদ্দ সম্বন্ধে সাধারণভাবে কিছু আলোচনা কোর্ত্তে চাই। মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় ব্যয়-বরাদ্দ উপস্থিত করবার সময় মামুলি ধরণের অন্যান্যবার যেরূপ assurance দিয়ে থাকেন এবারও ঠিক সেই সব assurance দিয়েছেন। কাজেই House এর মেম্বরদের নিকট আমার নিবেদন যে তাঁরা যেন এই সব assurance এর উপর নির্ভর কোরে এই ব্যয়-বরাদ্দ অনুমোদন না করেন। এই বিভাগের details আলোচনা করবার সময় আমার নেই। এই বিভাগের যে যে পরিবর্ত্তন অত্যাবশ্যক কেবল সেইগুলিই মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে স্মরণ করিয়ে দিচ্ছি।

গভর্ণমেণ্ট Public Works Department নাম পরিবর্ত্তন কোরে এ-বিভাগের নাম দিয়েছেন Civil Works Department. তাতে আমার পূর্ব্ববর্ত্তী বক্তা যে Public Waste Department এর কথা বোলেছেন তা হয়ত এখন আর বলা চোলবে না কিন্তু তাতেও ভুলেই নেই। কেন না Civil Works Department এর নামের বদলে এই Department Evil Works Department এ পরিণত হোয়েছে। গভর্ণমেণ্টের অন্য Department সম্বন্ধে বোলতে গেলে সাধারণের বোধগম্য ভাষায় বলা যায়, কিন্তু পূর্ত্তবিভাগ সম্বন্ধে কিছু বোলতে

গেলেই expertএর দোহাই দেওয়া হয়। কিন্তু মন্ত্রী মহাশয় থেকে আরম্ভ কোরে প্রত্যেক মেম্বারের বোধ হয় এই অভিজ্ঞতা আছে যে, যেখানেই যত expertএর সমাবেশ সেখানেই তত গলদ, সেখানেই তত খরচ। এমন প্রায় দেখা যায় যে expert গণের বহু গবেষণার scheme, এবং যে schemeএর পেছনে লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা খরচ হোয়েছে সেই scheme শেষ পর্য্যন্ত abandon করা হোয়েছে। আমার মতে এই সব টাকা এইভাবে খরচ না কোরে জাতির মঙ্গলজনক কার্য্যে খরচ করা বরং উচিৎ।

Road Developmentএর যে সমস্ত scheme আছে এবং যার Mapও দেখেছি তাই থেকে দেখা যায় যে উদ্দেশ্যে, অর্থাৎ যা'তে পল্লীবাসী তাদের কৃষিজাত দ্রব্যাদি সহরে বিক্রয় করবার সুবিধা পেয়ে দুপয়সা লাভ কোর্ত্তে পারে, সেই উদ্দেশ্য নিয়ে রাস্তা না কোরে কেবল বড় বড় নামে যেমন Inter-District Road, Inter-Provincial Road এমন কি Inter-Continental Road নাম দিলেও এই সকল schemeএর দ্বারা সত্যিকারের কোন উপকার হয় না। বর্দ্ধমানের ভেতর দিয়ে যে Bombay Trunk Roadএর scheme হোয়েছে সে সম্বন্ধে দুএকটা কথা বোলতে পারি। এই schemeএ যে স্থানে Damodar bridge এর ব্যবস্থা হোয়েছে তাতে যত বড় expertই আসুন না কেন Bridge successful কিছুতেই কোর্ত্তে পারবেন না। এই Bridgeএর পেছনে রাণীগঞ্জের নিকট Bridge করলে সবদিকে ভাল হ'ত। আমি Governmentকে warning দিচ্ছি যত টাকাই খরচ করুন না কেন বর্ত্তমানের পরিকল্পনার সব টাকাই নষ্ট হবে। বর্দ্ধমান, মেদিনীপুর এবং বাঁকুড়া জিলার রায়না, ঘাটাল এবং বিষ্ণুপুর প্রভৃতি অঞ্চলে যে বিরাট বসতি আছে, যেখানে লক্ষ লক্ষ লোকের বাস সেদিক দিয়ে রাস্তা না গিয়ে অন্যদিকে নিলে এই টাকাটার অপব্যয় হবে। যেধার দিয়ে রাস্তা যাচ্ছে তাতে গ্রামবাসীদের প্রকৃত উপকার হবে না। এই রাস্তা সম্বন্ধে পুনর্বিবেচনা করবার জন্য আমি মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে অনুরোধ কোরছি।

তারপর Departmentএর administrationএর গলদ সম্বন্ধে আমার পূর্ব্ববর্ত্তী বক্তা কতকগুলি উচিৎ কথা বোলেছেন। অবশ্য জলে ডুবে জল খেলে ভগবানের বাবাও টের পান না। কে কোথায় ঘুস নিচ্ছে "সত্যিকারের প্রমাণ করা অত্যন্ত দুরূহ ব্যাপার"। তথাপি এখানে যাঁরা উপস্থিত আছেন তাঁরা সকলেই অন্তরে অন্তরে অনুভব করচেন যে প্রকৃত গলদ রোয়েছে। যেখানে জিনিষের দর সত্যিকারের এক টাকা সেখানে মাত্র পাঁচ আনা দর দিলেও contract দেওয়া হোচ্ছে। কোন রকম আপোষ বন্দোবস্ত না হোলে সেটা কি কোরে সম্ভব?

আর একটা কথা এই Department expert ছাড়াও Chief Engineer থেকে আরম্ভ কোরে Divisional Engineer প্রভৃতি বড় বড় Engineer রাখবার কি প্রয়োজন আছে? Irrigation সম্বন্ধে বক্তৃতা করবার সময় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বোলেছিলেন যে ছোট ছোট scheme গুলি District Boardএর underএ দেবার ব্যবস্থা হোচ্ছে। আমি বোলতে চাই যে পূর্ত্তবিভাগ সম্বন্ধেও এই নীতি অনুযায়ী যদি ছোট ছোট কাজগুলি District Board এর underএ দেওয়া হয় তাহোলে এই বিভাগের খরচ অনেক কম হবে। এই Top heavy administrationএর খরচ অনেক কমে যাবে।

এ ছাড়া District Boardএর underএ গেলে contract সম্বন্ধে অনেক গলদ দূর হবে। কারণ District Boardএর মেম্বারদের contract সম্বন্ধে কি হোচ্ছে না হোচ্ছে তার খবর রাখবার সুযোগ আছে যা কলিকাতার Head office থেকে contract দিলে হওয়া সম্ভবপর নয়। এই জন্য আমার——

(Here the member having reached the time-limit resumed his seat.)

Mr. C. MORGAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have much pleasure in supporting the motion for grant moved by the Hon'ble Minister. After examining the present position and programme of the work being carried out by the department on roads, I should like to congratulate the department on the definite and satisfactory progress that has been made since my last criticism in this House. At the same time, I wish to congratulate Mr. King, who was appointed Special Officer, on the voluminous report and the detailed maps recently issued. This report provides Government with all the information necessary for a comprehensive policy of road development in Bengal.

Some time ago, at a meeting of the Board of Communications, a "six-point" policy, which had been drawn up by the Government of Bengal, was approved, as the Hon'ble Minister has just told us. This was referred to recently by him in a reply to clause (*d*) of question 91. This question was put by Mr. Moazzamali Chowdhury, and from the reply given honourable members will be able to satisfy themselves as to the aims and objects of Government, and the policy which is to be pursued. In case honourable members have not seen the question and answer, I repeat the "six-point" policy and it is very important—

(1) Government should complete the Road Fund Schemes now in progress and those for which provision is made in the 1939-40 budget.

(2) Government propose to take up as soon as possible a programme of constructing or improving to modern standards, roads required for the transport of agricultural produce to suitable markets and roads which will serve as feeders to railway stations and steamer ghats.

(3) Works should be spread over as many districts as possible.

(4) Government will have regard to the existence of other means of communication and the amount of traffic likely to be expected.

(5) Due consideration will have to be given to areas already enjoying fairly satisfactory means of communication, if there is a possibility of increase of road traffic and a consequent increase of revenues from the Petrol Tax—a very important point.

(6) Government aim should be to provide as much work as possible on roads which can ultimately be linked up with existing inter-district and provincial roads and not merely local roads.

Sir, that is not an easy task, but I am satisfied that the problem is now being properly tackled.

As regards the present financial position the Hon'ble Minister's statement about the position with regard to the Road Development Fund

is interesting. It appears that the balance now held for us by the Central Government is Rs. 40 lakhs, and that if the full programme is carried out, Government expects the balance in the Road Development Fund will be practically exhausted by 31st March, 1942. After that, they would only have the annual subvention of approximately Rs. 17 or Rs. 18 lakhs.

To carry out their programme after March, 1942, will require between Rs. 30 and Rs. 40 lakhs annually. So it seems that there will be a deficit of about Rs. 17 lakhs which will have to be raised from provincial revenues.

The deficit might of course be met by raising a loan but, so far as one can see, this would not be satisfactory in that only a certain amount can be spent each year, and there would be no use raising money which might have to lie idle and cost the Government annual interest. This deficit amount of Rs. 17 lakhs could probably be obtained by increasing the Motor Vehicles Tax, and allotting one-half to the department for road construction purposes.

As regards maintenance, Sir, approximately Rs. 18 lakhs is spent from revenue on maintenance charges. I understand that a few years ago the figure was Rs. 25 lakhs, and the reduction is due to the introduction of better and more modern types of surfacing. With further construction maintenance charges may be expected to increase, but it should be some time yet before they amount to the old figure, and I hope that meantime there will be no difficulty in finding money for repairs without reducing expenditure on new construction.

In this connection, I would like to mention that the greatest damage done to roads is by bullock-carts. Everyone is convinced that if we can have the proper kind of bullock-carts, the huge amount spent on repair of roads damaged by bullock-carts will be reduced by an enormous amount. This, I know, is a very difficult question, but I would suggest that bullock-carts not using any rubber tyres may be taxed in some way or other so that they may compensate to a certain extent for the great damage that they do to roads.

Coming to the expenditure for 1940-41 that is budgeted, Rs. 34 lakhs have been allocated as follows—improvement of Government roads, Rs. 10·45 lakhs; and grants-in-aid, Rs. 23·46 lakhs. The work is almost entirely done by the Communications and Works Department.

As regards the grants-in-aid to local bodies, I would urge Government to maintain the reconstructed district board roads, and it is most important that Government should take them over. I beg to draw the attention of honourable members from the mufassal to this desirable object, and would add that in any arrangement which may be come to, some contribution towards maintenance charges should be made by the district boards.

I am aware that there may be legal difficulties with regard to Government taking over these roads, but am of opinion that the matter is of such importance that it should be gone into at once. If Government maintain these roads, they would certainly have a case for claiming a share of the Motor Vehicles Tax.

Now, Sir, as regards establishment, it is often suggested that there should be a separate establishment for road construction, but I am convinced that this would not be at all satisfactory. I understand that the establishment is quite sufficient for the work which is to be carried out. Everyone will understand that there is a limit to the amount which can be spent annually. So, it is useless to constitute a separate road establishment which many times of the year might have little work to do. The Hon'ble Minister must not forget when discussing this road question that we have a river and waterways system which has no parallel in any other province in India and which gives cheap and easy transport.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,50,09,000 under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, I will not take much time of the House, particularly after the speech that has been made on the subject by my friend Mr. Morgan. But I feel that none of the previous speakers has pointed out one serious defect which has been disclosed during examination by the Public Accounts Committee and its comment made at page 120 of the Appropriation Accounts of 1937-38 and the Audit Report. We find therefore that there was a provision under Communications and Works to be financed by subventions from the Central Road Fund to the extent of Rs. 10,27,000. The modified appropriation was Rs. 6,04,851 and there was a shortage of appropriation of Rs. 4,14,489. This I submit, Sir, is too serious a neglect, particularly when we are all aware that the Treasury Benches cannot plead want of schemes for the purpose of spending on road development. We know exhaustive schemes have been prepared and the King Report contained schemes on which we could easily spend money for the next 100 years without making any scheme whatever, if not for 200 years.

Sir, under such circumstances the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Communications owes an explanation to this House; how is it that the full amount of subvention from the Central Fund is not availed of and utilised during the year, why this deplorable state of things still continues and how he proposes to effectively stop this, I should say, negligence, if not scandal.

Now, Sir, we all know that Bengal is very poor in communications. We know that poor people cannot get proper price for their produce because they cannot take advantage of a wider market, and we know that industry can never develop without good communication both by water and land. Just now we had a full discussion regarding the deficiencies of irrigation, and we now find that in spite of funds being available, in spite of the necessity of good roads, the full amount available to this province is not being spent. There has been a little improvement—if I caught the Hon'ble Minister in charge aright—but we are not satisfied that every thing is being done. If I may offer a piece of advice, and if it is accepted in the spirit in which I give it, if past experience shows that the amount budgeted cannot be utilised within the year, there is no harm in budgeting, in providing in excess of the amount and then appropriating at least the minimum amount that is available for the province.

Sir, I do not want to detain the House any further. With these few words I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble Maharaja SRISCHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Sir, I am thankful to Mr. Morgan, for his kind criticism and helpful suggestions, and I am glad to find that the road policy which the Government is following has the support of this House. Mr. Md. Abul Fazl in his cut motion has raised the question of abuses prevailing in this department. I admit, Sir, that in a big department like this there may be some black sheep. But it would be unfair accusing the entire department of corruption without giving specific cases and giving me an opportunity to look into them. Let me state the steps we have already taken with a view to prevent corruptions. The first action we took was to revise the schedule of rates in order to reduce the margin of profit. Sir, unless there be a good margin of profit nobody can willingly pay any bribe to anybody. Secondly, we have improved the system of accepting tenders, leaving absolutely no option to the officers but to accept the lowest tender. Thirdly, we have arranged for more frequent supervision by superior officers than it used to be before. In addition to this, we had a special officer appointed to look into the question and examine the working of the department generally and to suggest remedies. The report is in our hands already, and we are considering the question of giving effect to the suggestions as far as possible. If the honourable member had any particular names in view, I would be only too glad if he gave them to me, so that I may deal with the matter as thoroughly as possible. I may assure the honourable member that I am as anxious as he himself to stop corruption whenever it can be detected, and I can also assure the House that I shall leave no stone unturned to stop this nefarious practice.

Sir, I am glad that an honourable member has himself referred to a circular which has been recently issued by the department. This circular is to the effect that contractors of all communities should be given a fair chance of submitting tenders. Sir, this will show the lines on which the department is working in this respect. But I must submit that there are certain communities whose number of contractors is small, and so it is not possible to have the work distributed among the contractors of different communities. As a matter of fact, according to the existing rules we cannot give contracts on communal lines. But, Sir, we are doing our best to have the approved list of contractors improved as much as possible giving a fair share of contracts to all the communities. A question has been raised about the very low percentage which is offered during tender; that, I believe, is a matter for individual contractors, and I am sure when they make any offer they do not do so with the idea of losing their money.

Mr. Jogesh Chandra Gupta has gone into ancient history. I do admit that there was a time when we could not spend the entire subvention which we got from the Government of India. But the situation has completely changed now. Last year, I think, we got about Rs. 17 lakhs from the Government of India, but we spent about Rs. 2 lakhs. So that is no evidence of any money lapsing. In the current year, too, we got about Rs. 18 lakhs and we hope to spend nearly Rs. 27 lakhs; that again does not show that any amount has lapsed. Similarly, in the coming year we propose to spend nearly Rs. 34 lakhs. Certainly, Sir, that is an improvement for which the department can take credit. There is no question of any amount lapsing even if we cannot spend it. This year, over and above the subvention, we are going to spend Rs. 2½ lakhs on special grants and Rs. 6 lakhs from the accumulated reserve. With these words, Sir, I oppose the cut motions and commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The motion of Mr. Md. Abul Fazl that the demand of Rs. 1,50,09,000 under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Jogesh Chandra Gupta that the demand of Rs. 1,50,09,000 under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar, that a sum of Rs. 1,50,09,000 be granted for expenditure under the heads "50—Civil Works" and "81—Civil Works not charged to Revenue" was then put and agreed to.

JOINT CONFERENCE.

Laying the Indian Motor Vehicles Rules on the Table.

Mr. SPEAKER: Sir Nazimuddin, are you going to lay the Indian Motor Vehicles Rules on the Table?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Yes, Sir, I am going to, but I have lost the formula and can't find it. But in the absence of that legal formula I simply lay the Rules on the Table. In this connection, Sir, a suggestion has been made, in view of the fact that the time is so short, that there should be a joint conference between the two Houses, and we find that in the rules the only way in which we can get things settled together is by the appointment of a joint conference under Rule 11 of the Bengal Legislative (Joint Sittings and Communications) Rules. The rule reads as follows:—

"(1) If a difference of opinion arises between the two Chambers in regard to any matter, or if in respect of any matter a Conference between the Chambers is considered desirable, and a resolution is passed in either Chamber that the matter should be discussed at a Conference, a message shall be sent to the other Chamber to inform it of the resolution and to desire its concurrence in the resolution.

(2) If the other Chamber agree, a motion shall be made in each Chamber nominating the members of that Chamber who are to represent it at the Conference. At a Conference each Chamber shall be represented by an equal number of members.

(3) Save that the provisions of the Bengal Legislative Council (Governor's) Rules shall, so far as may be, apply, the Conference shall determine its own procedure.

(4) The day, hour and place of the Conference shall be fixed by the President."

Accordingly, Sir, I propose to move a resolution the first thing to-morrow with your special permission after question time, suggesting the names of members of both Houses, the number of members being 5 or 7 from each House.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, there are one or two other points which I want to raise in this connection.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, let me finish first, for I have not yet finished. For me to be able to move a resolution on

this subject it is necessary that the group Whips should kindly give the Government Whip the names that they would like to suggest.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: If only five names are to be suggested, then the Whips will be in a very great difficulty to decide as considerably more members than five would like to be in the conference from this House.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Let all the Whips be consulted first.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think it would be better if all the Whips meet together in a room and settle the matter among themselves.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, there is also another point which has got to be considered in this connection. Suppose, we have our joint discussion and arrive at a certain agreement. Thereafter, what procedure would you like to follow, Sir? I submit, Sir, that the usual procedure for Bills be followed.

Mr. SPEAKER: Well, personally, I am not very clear as to what procedure should be followed. If there is an agreement reached by the Conference I can assure you that I shall try my best to give effect to that agreement, but in case there is disagreement, I am afraid I cannot commit myself offhand to what line I should take.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The applicability of the recommendations of the Conference will be otherwise infructuous.

Mr. SPEAKER: If there is agreement, so far so good, but if there is disagreement it would fall altogether. There is no midway course.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Suppose, Sir, there is substantial agreement and minimum of difference, what will happen then?

Mr. SPEAKER: As I have said it must be either this way or that. The agreement must be complete in all respects for the recommendations to be effective.

The House now stands adjourned till 4 o'clock to-morrow.

Adjournment.

It being 7-35 p.m.—

The House was adjourned till 4 p.m. on Wednesday, the 20th March, 1940, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 20th March, 1940, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur M. AZIZUL HAQUE, C.I.E.) in the Chair, 9 Hon'ble Ministers and 195 members

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Communal ratio in appointments under Court of Wards in Rangpur.

***231B. Mr. KSHETRA NATH SINGHA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it is a fact that all big estates in the district of Rangpur are under the Court of Wards;

(*ii*) how many estates are under the Court of Wards; and

(*iii*) whether the question of communal ratio is observed in matters of appointments in these estates?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*)(*iii*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether cases of the Muslims and Scheduled Castes are considered at the time of appointments?

(*c*) Do the Government contemplate the desirability—

(*i*) of observing the ratio question in future appointments; and

(*ii*) of appointing officers and servants from the tenants of the province?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy): (*a*)(*i*) No; but the majority are under the Court of Wards.

(*ii*) Thirteen (including 3 Trust estates).

(*iii*) The matter is under consideration.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*)(*i*). The matter is under consideration.

(*ii*) No.

Communal ratio in the clerical staffs of Pabna and certain other Collectorates.

*231C. **Maulvi MD. MOZAMMEL HUQ:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the Pabna, Bogra, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Rajshahi, Jalpaiguri and Malda Collectorates--

(i) the present number of posts—

(1) in the upper division, and

(2) in the lower division;

(ii) the number of them held by—

(1) Muslims,

(2) Caste Hindus,

(3) Scheduled Castes,

(4) Indian Christians,

(5) Anglo-Indians, and

(6) other communities;

(iii) the pay that is drawn at present by each of them;

(iv) the present number of Head Clerks, Superintendents, Sherisdars, Nazirs that are in these district offices, district by district; and

(v) how many of them are—

(1) Muslims,

(2) Caste Hindus,

(3) Scheduled Castes,

(4) Indian Christians,

(5) Anglo-Indians, and

(6) other communities?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Three statements furnishing the information are laid on the Library table.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Live-stock census in Bengal.

115B. Kazi EMDADUL HAQUE: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture and Industries Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an account of the live-stock and other belongings of the people of Bengal is being collected at Government expense?

(*b*) If so, what is the object?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) how much cost it will involve; and

(*ii*) how much has already been incurred therefor?

MINISTER in charge of the ACRICULTURE and INDUSTRIE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan): (*a*) Yes. A census of live-stock including poultry as well as agricultural implements and machinery was taken in January last.

(*b*) This is the quinquennial live-stock census taken by all provinces and most of the States in India simultaneously, according to the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Agriculture. The object of the census is to collect the necessary data for the solution of problems connected with the improvement of cattle, fodder and agricultural wealth.

(*c*)(*i*) Rs. 6,985, and

(*ii*) Rs. 2,385.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many times the live-stock census has up till now been taken after the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Agriculture excluding this one?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Two, I think.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what has been the figure as regards bulls in the last census—whether it has been found to be on the increase or decrease?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I want notice.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether these statistics have been collected simultaneously in all the districts of Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Yes, Sir.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when this enquiry began?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I don't know the date.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Approximately when did it begin?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: It was done in January last.

Remission of interest on arrear rents in Deb-Barma Wards Estate in Dinajpur.

115C. Maulvi ABDUL JABBAR: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware—

(*i*) that the Deb-Barma Wards Estate at Chirirbandar in the district of Dinajpur is an *ejmali mahal* with a private landlord of half share;

(*ii*) that the private landlord is realising arrear rent without interest; and

(*iii*) that the concession in the shape of the remission of interest in the Wards Estate of the half-share both in respect of arrear rent and current rent has been withdrawn?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Collector of Dinajpur, the Divisional Commissioner and the Board of Revenue have received any representation from the tenants for remission of interest on the ground of hardship?

(*c*) If so, what action, if any, has been taken on the representation of the tenants?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: (*a*)(*i*) and (*b*) Yes.

(*ii*) It is so reported.

(*iii*) Yes, but the Collectors have been given authority in special circumstances to remit interest.

(*c*) *Vide* (*a*)(*iii*) above.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to his answer (*a*)(*iii*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the circumstances contemplated for remission of interest and if any direction has been issued to the Collector in that behalf?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Direction has been issued to the Commissioner, and I am sure the Commissioner will convey to the Collector. The circumstances contemplated are, the Collector will go into the merit of each case and will exercise his discretion.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the direction was given—how many months back?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Just about a couple of weeks ago.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, with reference to his answer (*a*)(*ii*), what he means when he says "it is so reported"? Has he made any enquiry about it?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Yes.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: What has been the result of his enquiry? Was the report found to be correct?

Mr. SPEAKER: The answer is, "it is so reported."

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: I want to know what has been result of the enquiry made by the Hon'ble Minister?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: There are certain cases in which one co-sharer of the estate has been realising the arrear rent without interest.

Mr. SASANKHA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Collector of the district has been asked to get information from the private landlord giving the names of the tenants and the amounts remitted?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Not necessary. That is the duty of the Collector. We can safely depend on his discretion and on his commonsense.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is his intention to make an official enquiry of the Collector as to the number of cases in which remissions have been made in accordance with the recommendations of the Hon'ble Minister?

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: The Collector has been authorized to do all that is necessary to exercise his discretion. So it is not necessary for Government to give him detailed instructions in this matter. We can depend on his commonsense.

Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: My question has not been answered, Sir. I asked him whether we would be able to know as a result of his instructions if the Collector made any concessions?

Mr. SPEAKER: You will have to put a further question for that because it is now purely problematical whether the Collector will make any concessions or not.

Message from the Bengal Legislative Council.

The Secretary read the following message which had been received from the Bengal Legislative Council, namely:—

"That the Bengal Legislative Council at its meeting held on the 13th March, 1940, agreed to the Bengal Finance (Amendment) Bill, 1940, without any amendments."

Cable to the Marquis of Zetland.

Mr. SPEAKER: Ladies and gentlemen, as authorised, I sent the following cablegram to the Marquis of Zetland:—

"Bengal Legislative Assembly shocked to hear of dastardly outrages and at meeting this afternoon expressed its abhorrence (stop) Assembly expresses its congratulations on your providential escape as also of Lord Lamington and Sir Louis Dane and further expressed its horror at death of Sir Michael O'Dwyer and offers deepest sympathy with his bereaved family which may kindly be communicated."

He has acknowledged it as follows:—

"Greatly appreciate good wishes of Bengal Legislative Assembly. Please convey my warm thanks. I have passed on their messages to Lady O'Dwyer, Lord Lamington and Sir Louis Dane.

ZETLAND."

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

9—Stamps.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 4,66,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "9—Stamps."

Mr. RAMIZUDDIN AHMED: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 4,66,000 under the head "9—Stamps" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, the income of this department is about Rs. 2,64,000. Now let us see who pays this vast amount. If we make an account of the suits that are now prevalent in law courts, we find that 95 per cent. of the suits are either rent or Small Cause Court or money suits where at the outset it is found that the costs of the suits in the shape of court-fees are paid by the landlords or creditors, but these costs up to the last penny are included in the decretal amounts which are in the long run realised from the poor tenants and debtors.

The rent suits primarily concern the poor section of the tenants who are unable to pay even their actual rents. Though some relief was sought to be given to these poor tenants by reducing the rate of compensation from 25 per cent. to 12½ per cent. by the Bengal Agricultural Tenancy Act, but this has been counter-balanced by adding this high rate of judicial costs. In the same way, Sir, though some provision has been made by reducing the rate of interest for the relief of the debtors, it has been taken away by this additional judicial cost. Thus we see that the poor tenants and debtors are hard hit by this higher rate of judicial stamps, and it is a systematic engine of oppression by the Government.

The next thing which I want to show in this respect is that under the High Court Rules and Orders from time to time Government is now realising *ad valorem* court-fees from almost all sorts of cases except some miscellaneous cases where relief is seldom got. It has become impossible for poor people to vindicate their just rights and interests. Now, Sir, in a single suit court-fees are realised more than once: in a rent or money suit the Landlord or the *mahajan* once pays the court-fees at the time of the institution of the suit, but if the tenants or the debtors want to set aside that decree they have to pay *ad valorem* court-fees again, thus making it impossible for the poor aggrieved people to get any relief. The same thing is taking place in Debt Settlement Boards which are said to be established for the relief of the poor. Court-fees are once realised before the award is given and again it is realised at the time of certificate procedure if any default takes place.

Everywhere, whether in a civil court or revenue court or Debt Settlement Board, all sorts of plans have been devised for realising different types of court-fees to the extreme distress and misery of the poor people.

The higher rate of non-judicial stamp vitally affects the tenants as they are the parties in most of the documents. Thus on an analysis we find that the Stamp Revenue of Rs. 2,65,00,000 actually comes from the pockets of the poor agriculturists, but if any scheme for the education or medical relief of the agriculturists is spoken of the Ministers say —"there is no money."

If the people are to be saved from these difficulties, the rate of judicial and non-judicial stamps must be reduced and some provision ought to be made so that in decree-set-aside and such other cases, by payment of a nominal court-fee, as it was before, the poor people can get some relief.

With these words I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

The Hon'ble Sir BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Sir, the honourable mover has made a general complaint against the high rate of judicial and non-judicial stamps.

First of all, I would like to mention that our rates are by no means higher than those prevailing in other provinces, namely, Madras, Bombay, Bihar or the United Provinces. The rates were increased once in 1922 and again in 1935. By the Bengal Expiring Laws Act of 1938, the increased rates of 1935 were approved of by this House. So, I find no justification for this complaint.

Moreover, as the rates are not by any means higher than those prevailing in other provinces, I find it difficult to agree that our rates are causing special hardship to the tenantry. The tenants have been given relief in many respects, but here it is absolutely necessary that the rates should be maintained at their present level so that Government might secure sufficient revenue to run the administration of the province The greater portion of the revenue is certainly spent for the benefit of the province of Bengal and of its population which consists mainly of agriculturists and people whom my friend represents. With these few words, I oppose the cut motion.

The motion of Mr. Ramizuddin Ahmed that the demand of Rs. 4,66,000 under the head "9—Stamps" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Sir Bijoy Prasad Singh Roy that a sum of Rs. 4,66,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "9—Stamps" was then put and agreed to.

27—Administration of Justice.

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: Sir, on the recommendation (cheers from all sides of the House) of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 72,74,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice".

Mr. SPEAKER: What I propose to do is to close this debate at about 6 o'clock if possible, unless, of course, it is terminated earlier by some act of volition on the part of the Nawab Sahib.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Sir, may I suggest that the debate be closed at 5-30?

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us see how it proceeds.

Mr. SYAMA PRASAD BARMAN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 72,74,000 under the head "27—Administration of Justice" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, I move this cut motion with a view not to criticize the Government or to bring any censure against the Hon'ble Minister, but to make some suggestions about the desirability of giving magisterial powers to the munsifs of the outlying stations where the files are very light which, I hope, the humorist Nawab Sahib will kindly accept.

Sir, the extensive operation of the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act and the intensive working of the Debt Settlement Boards established throughout the province have greatly affected the work of civil courts in all the districts, so much so that the number of civil suits has abnormally fallen. The munsifs who draw fat salaries finish their day's work within an hour or two and sit idle for the rest of the day. This is the state of things in civil courts. But in the criminal courts, things are quite different. The number of civil suits has diminished due to the establishment of Debt Settlement Boards, but as there is no such thing as Crime Settlement Boards, the number of criminal cases is rather on the increase, and the Deputy Magistrates and Sub-Deputy Magistrates, specially those stationed in the subdivisional towns, are so much overworked that they have to work even after dusk. So, if the munsifs whose files are very light are invested with magisterial powers to try criminal cases, their services would be fully utilised and the Sub-Deputy and Deputy Magistrates would be relieved to some extent. This is my first reason.

My second reason, Sir, is that the senior munsifs become in course of time Sub-Judges and Assistant Session Judges and have to try session

cases and hear criminal appeals. These munsifs who have no previous experience in trying criminal cases become full-fledged criminal case Judges overnight. So if the munsifs are given magisterial powers this difficulty may be removed.

The Hon'ble Minister is, I think, aware at the instance of some of the District Judges a scheme has very recently been prepared for investing some of the munsifs with magisterial powers so that they may have some training in trying criminal cases. Accordingly, some of the munsifs were very recently invested with magisterial powers. So according to this scheme also the munsifs whose files are light may be empowered to try criminal cases in addition to their civil court work.

My third reason is that there is all along an insistent demand for the separation of the judiciary from the executive, and there is reasonable ground in that demand. If the judiciary be separated from the executive, the people would get impartial and even-handed justice. Had the judiciary and executive been separate, Dharja Barma of Jalpaiguri would not have been summoned and unnecessarily harassed by the Subdivisional Officer of the district only for the crime of not attending the meeting convened by the Hon'ble Minister Nawab Musharruff Hossain. So if the homourist Nawab Sahib would be kind enough to accept my suggestion, it would help to some extent to meet the demand for the separation of the judiciary from the executive.

For all these reasons I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: Sir I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 72,74,000 under the head "27—Administration of Justice" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, the appointment of Honorary Magistrates is now practically an abuse of power. In section 14 of the Criminal Procedure Code no doubt a provision has been made that Government may vest some persons with particular powers as Magistrates either of the First, Second or Third Class. But unfortunately at present we see that the provision has been totally abused. Looking to the reports of the Administration of Criminal Justice, we see that this "may" has developed into "must" and the number of Honorary Magistrates has increased very much from year to year so that their strength is now practically equal to the number of Stipendiary Magistrates. Look to the Criminal Administration Report of 1938. There were 371 Stipendiary Magistrates as against as many as 367 Honorary Magistrates, and looking to Calcutta, the metropolis of the province, we see that there are eight Stipendiary Magistrates whereas there are 36 Honorary Magistrates. Analysing the number and names, we see that two kinds of people are generally appointed as Honorary Magistrates. Firstly, the do-little noblemen of Bengal, and, secondly,

the persons who generally loiter round the courts in order to make two pice out of it. The noblemen generally never attend courts; as for example Maharaja Sir Prodyot Kumar Tagore has been made an Honorary Magistrate long ago, but I do not know how many times he attended courts. As to the other persons (there are noble exceptions of course) as I submitted, they loiter round the courts to make two pice and in the mufassal these Honorary Magistrates——

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry to interrupt you, Mr. Sarkar. You are entitled to make your remarks, but when you make a categorical remark like that which affects a class by itself, it goes beyond legitimate criticism. After all they are our own men.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: As cobra also lives in Bengal.

Mr. SPEAKER: But find out the cobra. Do not say that everybody is a cobra and a reptile.

Maulvi ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: I submit, Sir, that these Honorary Magistrates in the mufassal are known as 'অনাহারী' Magistrates, that is, persons who never get anything in any other profession and they take up these posts as a means of their livelihood. I give some instances, Sir, with your permission, what kind of persons are generally appointed One gentleman in my subdivision was appointed who was no doubt a European gentleman, but who did not know how to write order sheets. Now at the time of adjourning a case, he wrote out an order which in effect acquitted the accused and the gentleman accused got hints from his lawyer and bolted away and when a *chaprassi* was sent to bring that accused, he refused to come without a warrant and from that date that gentleman never appeared in a criminal court.

Another gentleman appointed in my subdivision as a Honorary Magistrate is rather a little queer fellow. The gentleman once applied for the post of a Police Sub-Inspector and when the authorities asked his name he point blank told the authorities that his name was such and such He did not get the service. After that he entered the criminal court as a typist. There also he failed and he left the court. Lastly, the gentleman again applied for the post of an Honorary Magistrate. He was given that post, but after getting the job he wrote to a friend of his that the gentleman who supported him to be an Honorary Magistrate would take his "lance", at a certain place. That gentleman spelt "lance" in place of "launch". This kind of gentlemen are generally appointed, and the very gentleman has been allowed to write out depositions in English.

We have got reports that commodities are sold to the highest bidder, but here is an institution which sells justice to the highest bidder. It

would have been a little bit decent had they taken money only from one side, but unfortunately the practice is that they generally take money from both the sides and give their verdict in favour of the persons who give them the highest amount of money! In fine, Sir, I say that barring mosquitoes and flies there is nothing in this world which cannot be accepted by a class of Honorary Magistrates in the mufassal. I again repeat that barring mosquitoes and flies there is no commodity, no material in this world which cannot be given as a present to that class of Honorary Magistrates.

I submit that this practice has developed only because favouritism is practised in appointing Honorary Magistrates. No doubt the object of the legislature was noble, but as the practice degenerated into favouritism and party politics and other matters have intervened, this noble institution has degenerated into a bribe-taking institution. I submit that if this kind of thing happens, then in the name of justice, injustice will be prevalent. These gentlemen are generally under the thumb of the local police. The police sometimes dictate judgments and judgments sometimes are written in police offices instead of being written in the office or in the house of the Honorary Magistrates. I have known of instances personally that records are sent to the prosecution lawyers or to the police offices so that judgments may come out ready-made. I bring it to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister if he is able to take notice of my assertions and my allegations, in order that he should at once stop this practice of recruiting Honorary Magistrates in the way in which it is being done for a long time. It is no justice at all. It is rather an abuse of justice. It is abuse of the process of law, and it has become practically a public scandal.

With these remarks I commend my motion for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 72,74,000 under the head "27—Administration of Justice" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, mockery of justice in police courts has already been fully described by the previous speaker because in the police courts we find Honorary "Anahari" Magistrates sitting there in judgment. It is an accident that to-day happens to be an anniversary of the world-famous Meerut Case in which Rs. 50 lakhs of peoples' money were squandered away and we knew what mockery of justice was there. It is another accident that I am to move this cut motion against a Minister who is so amiable, who supplies us with amusements here without having to pay any Amusement Tax and specially after the nice dinner that we had recently, whose taste we still remember. It is very unfortunate that I have to move such a cut motion, but there is no help for it and the truth has got to be told, though from the way in which the Minister

in charge talks in this House and outside, I am not very hopeful that anything tangible will result. We may get more feasts but no justice. I remember one occasion when questions were put about corruption and bribery in court, and the reply that the Hon'ble Minister gave was: "Why do people give bribes? If they stop it, bribery will stop." Our request was—let there be an enquiry about this, but he did not agree. It is a standing scandal that when we are trying to stop bribery in other spheres, right in front of Magistrates and Judges, Peshkars and other officers of courts are taking bribes, and all the advice—I should say too sane advice—that the Nawab Sahib has to offer us, is that the people should not give bribes. I wish the Nawab Sahib had understood the implications of what he said. Evidently, he did not; otherwise, he would not have given such an advice or would not have made such a statement without much sense in this House. But unfortunately, we are here, and the portfolio of Justice is in his hands. My grievance is—and on this point I hope the Nawab Sahib will agree with me—that there are interlopers in his department. Other departments are practically monopolising his own. The Home Minister has got more to say and more to control the Department of Justice than the Hon'ble Minister in charge, the Nawab Sahib, himself. Not only the Home Minister, but our friend, the Labour Minister, is also having his bite at Nawab Sahib. We know how section 107 is being applied. Of course, the blame will go to Nawab Sahib, but we know who is doing all that and how with the help of section 107 Labour Unions are being broken. In one case at Uluberia, Abdul Kader Azad and Bidyt Neogi were bound down for one year, and it was so arranged between the Labour Minister and the Home Minister and perhaps without the knowledge of the Minister of Justice that they could not get out on bail and had to suffer imprisonment for one year complete Others could go out with the greatest difficulty after six months or nine months. That was the position, Sir. (The Hon'ble Mr. H S. SUHRAWARDY: The Chief Justice was a party to it.)

Then, Sir, there was another case against a member of this House, and by means of section 107 that member has been made a prisoner of war as that member himself describes. That section has been tried against other members of the House as well, and I myself have been a recipient of a good deal of attention from those Ministers and section 107 has been found to be very convenient to be applied. The ground on which section 107 is applied is that there is a strike somewhere and even those who happen to be office-bearers of a particular union—the members who are responsible for the strike may not be members of that union—are hauled up, and after they are hauled up there is no escape, because the police will bring in evidence, and without giving any opportunity of cross-examining the witnesses the Magistrates, the Subdivisional Officers, would believe the statement of the police and immediately order

them to be bound down without hearing the case on an *ad interim* bond. That was exactly what happened to one member of this House. Then after the bond has been executed, the sureties are harassed, and often the sureties are cancelled, and when sureties are available and offered in court still they are not accepted on the pretext that the sureties were being examined. In this way, Sir, time is caused to be lost, and the unfortunate victim rots in jail. That is, Sir, how section 107 is being applied.

I am told, Sir, that it is not parliamentary to refer to one's own case, but as we are out to destroy the present social order lock, stock and barrel I do not think that we need be influenced by such decorum, because when such injustices are being done and there is no justice to be found anywhere, well at least in this House one can speak out, and I do not think that there is any harm if the other members of the House, especially members of the other side of the House, know what is happening in the name of justice and being done by their nominees. After this section 107 case was proceeded with, and attempts were made to harass and win over the sureties or to cancel the sureties, then some Ministers had the hardihood to say: "Well, you are looking well after you were in jail!" That is the sense of humour of some of the Ministers. Our Minister of Justice is reputed for his sense of humour. I hope that he will not indulge in such sense of humour.

With these words, Sir, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 72,74,000 for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, it is not without some hesitation that I place this motion before the House and rise to speak to offer some criticisms on the administration of justice in the presidency with regard to communal consideration shown in the matter of appointments specially of public prosecutors and Government pleaders.

Sir, I feel that as a Congressman I ought not to say anything which may be misunderstood and may even indirectly help in the growth or development of that cankerous disease in the body politic which comes in the shape of communalism. Sir, it is this consideration and this alone which induces us not to raise a voice of protest against that crude and medieval method of recruitment to public services which puts a premium on the religious creed of a community and makes it a safe passport to Government services for the members of that community. But, Sir, the communal ratio spirit has of late been carried so much beyond limits, and so much fuss and so much abuse has been made over it that

in charge talks in this House and outside, I am not very hopeful that anything tangible will result. We may get more feasts but no justice. I remember one occasion when questions were put about corruption and bribery in court, and the reply that the Hon'ble Minister gave was: "Why do people give bribes? If they stop it, bribery will stop." Our request was—let there be an enquiry about this, but he did not agree. It is a standing scandal that when we are trying to stop bribery in other spheres, right in front of Magistrates and Judges, Peshkars and other officers of courts are taking bribes, and all the advice—I should say too sane advice—that the Nawab Sahib has to offer us, is that the people should not give bribes. I wish the Nawab Sahib had understood the implications of what he said. Evidently, he did not; otherwise, he would not have given such an advice or would not have made such a statement without much sense in this House. But unfortunately, we are here, and the portfolio of Justice is in his hands. My grievance is—and on this point I hope the Nawab Sahib will agree with me—that there are interlopers in his department. Other departments are practically monopolising his own. The Home Minister has got more to say and more to control the Department of Justice than the Hon'ble Minister in charge, the Nawab Sahib, himself. Not only the Home Minister, but our friend, the Labour Minister, is also having his bite at Nawab Sahib. We know how section 107 is being applied. Of course, the blame will go to Nawab Sahib, but we know who is doing all that and how with the help of section 107 Labour Unions are being broken In one case at Uluberia, Abdul Kader Azad and Bidyt Neogi were bound down for one year, and it was so arranged between the Labour Minister and the Home Minister and perhaps without the knowledge of the Minister of Justice that they could not get out on bail and had to suffer imprisonment for one year complete. Others could go out with the greatest difficulty after six months or nine months. That was the position, Sir. (The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: The Chief Justice was a party to it.)

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one must not bow to it without some sort of protest. This communal ratio spirit has even invaded spheres not even contemplated under the Government communiqué of June 12, 1939, viz., in the matter of appointments of Government pleaders and public prosecutors.

I will give one instance from my district, Dacca. Sir, with your permission, I will mention some names and try to illustrate my point. Rai Bahadur Satya Prasanna Ghose, Public Prosecutor of Dacca, retired some time last year, and Government invited applications for the post. One of the applicants was Mr. Upendra Kumar Chanda, B.L., the seniormost Assistant Public Prosecutor of Dacca, who got the first nomination from the district authorities. Mr. Chanda has been working as the seniormost Assistant Public Prosecutor of Dacca for about two decades with conspicuous ability. On more than one occasion he has officiated as Public Prosecutor and more than one English civilian District Judge have testified to his remarkable abilities, one of them saying "Mr. Chanda is one of the best Public Prosecutors I have ever seen," and another saying, "It is a pleasure to hear Mr. Chanda arguing a case." Again, Sir, in consideration of his extraordinary abilities a previous Government allowed Mr. Chanda a higher rate of fee than the scheduled rate on the special recommendation of the Legal Remembrancer, and I may also add that in 1938 Government made a proposal to appoint an additional Public Prosecutor for Dacca for which post also Mr. Chanda got the first nomination from the district authorities. But for some reason or other the proposal was shelved.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When you are speaking about these gentlemen, please do not mention names.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: All right, Sir. I was speaking about the present Assistant Public Prosecutor of Dacca; how this gentleman has acted as such with consummate ability for a pretty long time—perhaps over two decades. When this time he applied for the post, he got the first nomination from the district authorities, but unfortunately in spite of his conspicuous and able service, he was brushed aside to make room for one of his juniors. I do not want to do injustice to the gentleman who has been selected by speaking of his qualifications. (Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Well, he was selected because he was considered to be better than Mr. Chanda.) Well, my honourable friend Mr. Shahabuddin says that he was a better qualified man, but let me tell him definitely that the gentleman of whom I am speaking has been working as the seniormost Assistant Government Pleader for the last two decades, and is a man who was highly spoken of by distinguished High Court Judges. Sir, I will not say anything more of the gentleman who has been appointed. Only this much I shall say that the claims

of a senior man have been brushed aside to make room for a junior man. Now, Sir, the aggrieved Assistant Public Prosecutor realised that the gentleman who had been appointed being the newly elected Vice-President of the Dacca District Muslim League must continue to be the Public Prosecutor, however much disappointment it might cause him personally. He now petitioned the Government that he might kindly be appointed to the post of the Additional Public Prosecutor for which he got nomination in 1938, which he could well expect. He applied more than three months back, but he has not yet got the status of a Public Prosecutor. Sir, it is very curious that a man who served Government for over two decades very ably, very faithfully, and very honestly and was recommended by distinguished civilian Judges—his claim was overruled. Let us take another case. I will not mention names. One gentleman, a junior Muslim member of the Dacca Bar, was appointed Additional Government Pleader of Dacca because in the interest of "Dacca politics" it was thought necessary to rope him in. This post was created almost overnight because Dacca politics which is a correct barometer of Bengal Government politics needed it. I again repeat, Sir, I do not know why the claims of the man who served Government for a pretty long time, faithfully and ably and who was recommended by High Court Judges, should go disregarded. I know that the Hon'ble Minister in charge of this department is a god-fearing pious Muslim I will leave it to him to answer whether justice has been meted out to the man whose claims have thus been set aside. I think, Sir, that there is yet time to do justice to him. I look upon this Dacca case as a test case. Let Government show that communal considerations do not weigh with the Government in making judicial appointments. Let the Government come forward and show some gesture that they are yet prepared to make amends in this case. With these words, Sir, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House .

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, on behalf of Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 72,74,000 under the head "27—Administration of Justice" be reduced by Rs. 100.

Sir, in moving this motion for raising a discussion about the policy of the Government in the matter of recruitment of Judicial officers, I am treading upon a ground which has been traversed for a long time on the fundamental question of the separation of the judiciary from the executive. Sir, it is time now for the Government which is a system of party government to consider seriously whether the age-long recommendation for the separation of the two functions should not be carried out now. In the matter of recruitment, the first thing that I want to place before the House is that so far as the criminal side is concerned, the trials of criminal cases should be taken away from the existing

criminal department, because we know that nowadays Magistrates and Subdivisional Magistrates are too much taken up with rural reconstruction work, union board work and the Self-Government Department work as well as with Debt Settlement work. That is to say, the fundamental condition of a Judge, namely, detachment and absence of extra-judicial knowledge of local affairs, is lacking in these persons, whenever a particular case comes within the knowledge of a Subdivisional Magistrate or a District Magistrate in one or other capacity. So it is necessary that even if a Deputy Magistrate if he is entrusted with the administration of criminal justice, then he ought to be placed away from the jurisdiction of the Magistrate. Apart from this, Sir, the question of efficiency is the main thing which should be the greatest concern of any Government. The judiciary is the steel frame of social justice and social order; Governments may change, the party government may take any new shape or colour; probably one party government will introduce one kind of activity and another party government will introduce different kinds of activities; but so far as the administration of justice is concerned it must be colourless, it must be solid, and it must be unimpeachable. We must have power to compel Government to administer real justice. But, Sir, what is the present state of things? The Hon'ble Nawab Sahib who is himself a lawyer will no doubt visualise the ridiculousness of the whole thing. A raw green I.C.S. who may be a very smart young man, very intelligent and quick, a raw green I.C.S. of five years' experience as the head of a subdivision having some jabbering of criminal law, is placed as an officiating District Judge sitting in appeal over decisions of Subordinate Judges who have been dealing with these matters for nearly 25 years of their life. As a humble lawyer myself I confess that when I appear before a junior civilian Judge in a civil capacity and I stand up to argue a case against the decision of a Subordinate Judge, I myself feel diffident because from the very outset I feel that this raw green young man having no experience of civil law will either affirm the judgment without going into the intricacies of the case or will try in his rashness to upset the judgment in a way which is not at all desirable, nor welcome, nor wholesome. I do not know whether such a system exists anywhere in the world, but here it is a mockery of democracy. I hope that Government which claims to be a popular Government will now reconsider this question. I know, Sir, that civilians are very brilliant young men. I also know that for administration of civil justice, it is prudence and judicial experience which count more than brilliance. Then, look at the other end of the matter. So far as Judges are concerned, my humble suggestion to the Hon'ble Minister concerned is that these civilians ought to be given sufficient training for a period as munsif and then for a period as Subordinate Judge and then appointed as Judges of particular districts. They are

not born to be Judges but make them Judges after giving them some training, so that they may be better servants of the State and so that they may inspire greater confidence in the minds of the litigant public.

Then, Sir, look at the criminal powers given to experienced Subordinate Judges who have all their life dealt with the colourless Government. Towards the end of the 59th minute of the 11th hour, they are entrusted with some authority. I know that there are very brilliant men among them. But I know it from personal experience that in sessions cases they either believe the case from the beginning or disbelieve it from the very beginning and not being able to appraise the oral evidence divorced from the documentary evidence, they feel themselves quite at sea and in charging to the jury they either give a clear direction for acquittal or a very strong direction for conviction. Either course is undesirable in its own way. So, I submit that brilliant munsifs and Subordinate Judges who are well versed on the civil side should also be given training on the criminal side, so that when they are invested with maximum and unlimited power, they may administer justice which is consistent with dignity, which is consistent with efficiency and which is consistent with safety.

In this connection I would also beg leave to make a submission to the Hon'ble Minister in charge that a particular proportion of the District and Sessions Judges should be recruited from lawyers, preferably from mufassal lawyers. I do not like to be accused of speaking only on behalf of mufassal lawyers, and I hope that people will not read into my speech more than is intended. Although I must say I am not interested, yet, as you know, Sir, mufassal people do not ordinarily get much scope. A lawyer in Calcutta with some merits has some prospect of being a High Court Judge and of adorning the Bench to the admiration of others. But in the mufassal also there are brilliant men, such brilliant men that if they get opportunities, they can adorn the Chair of the Speaker of the Assembly with dignity and decorum. If similar facilities are given to intelligent and industrious lawyers in the mufassal, they will not only be ornaments, to the benches of District and Sessions Judges but also they will, if further facilities are given, adorn the benches of the High Court with no less distinction. Mufassal lawyers have got to deal with cases from the very bottom and they know the processes, and they also know better than High Court Judges how cases are built up and how cases are smashed in the nursery. Therefore, if brilliant and capable men are recruited from the mufassal and if they get better opportunities, they will perform their functions at least with no less dignity and prestige and in some cases they will even show greater merit. So, my submission to the Hon'ble Minister is that he will consider the question of recruiting at least a proportion of District and Sessions Judges from the practising mufassal lawyers because by so

doing they will induce really meritorious people to remain in the mufassal and try to get up legal acumen and make a proper study in the mufassal and then ascend to the highest position that may be possible step by step and ladder by ladder. This will relieve the congestion in the High Court and will also help brilliant men to get a chance. This will also ultimately enable Government to man the judiciary with the best men and that is desired by everybody.

Then, Sir, I would also suggest that the ministerial officers, at least the higher grade ministerial officers, should be recruited from the members of the legal profession. In these days of unemployment and in these days of congestion in the Bar, some sort of relief should be given to the profession, and I beg to make this suggestion to the Hon'ble Minister in charge for his consideration.

Now, Sir, in moving this cut motion, I beg to invite the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge to the proceedings of the Lawyers' Conference held every year. Sir, I am very sorry to say that although Government take notice of the agitation of other public bodies, they do not take as much notice of the Lawyers' Conferences as they should and these matters—the question of separation of judiciary from the executive, the question of recruitment of Judges and munsifs, etc.—have been discussed threadbare in the various conferences of the lawyers, and I know, Sir, that even during the coming Easter holidays another conference is going to be held, and it is but meet and proper that Government should consider the various recommendations, various criticisms and constructive suggestions that have been adopted and embodied in the different resolutions of the different conferences. I am sure that if the Cabinet which is composed mainly of lawyers and the Coalition Party which is also influenced by members, most of whom are lawyers, apply their minds to the question of reorganisation of the services and the reorganisation of the system, it will do immense good to the society because it will help in the long run in manning the services which will not only be efficient, which will not only be very useful, but which will also have the effect of inspiring immense confidence of the people at large. With these words I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: I am rather astonished to see that my friends on the opposite side are in such a confused position. They are as it were arrayed against each other—the leader arrayed against his followers, and the followers arrayed against the leader. Once I heard from the Leader of the Opposition that the Calcutta University and the University of Dacca produced graduates many in number—

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry to interrupt you. But will you please come to the point, because I am rather anxious to finish the discussion to-day early?

Mr. AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Sir the point has been raised that some appointments have been given to the Mussalmans who are not up to the mark and it requires to be met.

The Leader of the Opposition once said that the University of Calcutta and Dacca produce Muhammadan graduates many in number who can adorn any position of responsibility in the public services with credit. Now, I hear from my frineds on the other side that some appointments of Mussalmans have been made to the prejudice of the interests of the judicial administration itself. Sir, the question was raised that one Mr. Chanda was not appointed and that preference was given to a Muslim. That man has become an eyesore to my friends on the other side. If the facts were to be disclosed, the man who has been actually appointed has been found to be most suitable and desirable by the Government, and the man who has not been given the chance is a rotten element and is found to be in his dotage. He has not been found suitable for many other reasons also, because of certain policy pursued by Government and because of the fact that he was already an agitator. That he was very old was an important question at that time, and his appointment would only have led to this position that after the expiry of one year or so, he would have to vacate the position and a new man had to be appointed in his place. That being the position, the Government decision in the matter cannot be said to be unreasonable or undesirable for the time being. Probably it is an eyesore to our frineds on the other side because the man who was appointed happened to be a Muslim. (Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Absolutely untrue.)

Even at the present moment what do we find? Not only the majority of Public Prosecutors and Government Pleaders belong to the non-Muslim classes, but the Muslims form an infinitesimally small proportion of the whole cadre. In such circumstances, as there are fit and able candidates among the Muslims, they should be appointed in good numbers, so that the Muslim proportion may also be maintained in the public services.

So far as the Public Prosecutorship of Dacca is concerned, it is admitted on all hands that the man appointed to the post is the best man available for the time being. The post was not created overnight, as was, I think, stated by my friend on the other side—that was a mere presumption on his part. The fact is and it is known to everybody, that the post was created long before and mature consideration was given for a long time in selecting the candidate for the post and

the best man that could be available was appointed. So there cannot be any grievance on the part of my friends on the other side on that score.

Another point which I do not like to dilate upon is the grievances of my friends on the other side. These grievances have no legs to stand upon: they are all frivolous and unreasonable. Whenever any Muslim question comes up, my friends take exception to that and they make capital out of it. Sir, we are very sorry that we have not been able to change their mind even at this late year of the century, and that in the twentieth century they should be so narrow-minded that they cannot accommodate the Muslims in the position that they are entitled to according to the standard that can be followed by any administration or Government in the country is a matter of great regret.

Now, Sir, with regard to Honorary Magistrates, I have a point to urge. Honorary Magistrates are generally men who are either zemindars' men—*naibs* or *gomosthas*—or zemindars themselves who are in most cases idlers. I find one weapon in their hands for which they have acquired reputation in the country-side and that is that they are oppressors: another weapon has been put in their hands and that is Honorary Magistrateship and this has been very much uncomfortable to the litigant public. For this, we find miscarriage of justice in many cases causing great hardship to poor litigants. For this reason, I would suggest that any such people not having much education or having political bias of any kind or any religious bias or any prejudice against particular classes of people, such people should not be given any chance and should not be appointed Honorary Magistrates. I know of some cases in which the time having expired, such people have been reappointed. Sir, I take strong exception to this. I say that such people who are absolutely of no help to the poor litigant public and who are notorious for oppression upon their tenants and who are absolutely unfit to hold such posts should not be given any chance of being reappointed as Honorary Magistrates. These Honorary Magistrates sometimes live in places where there are no Subdivisional Officer or District Magistrate or other higher officers and so they are dangerous elements there. I can cite such examples. Their oppression is most palpable, and it is most painfully felt by the people living there.

Sir, with these few remarks, I resume my seat.

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: Sir, I will reply in the order in which motions have been moved. I will first reply to the motion moved by my friend, Mr. Shyama Prosad Barman. He says that we should give magisterial powers to the munsifs of outlying stations, and the reasons that he has put

forward are three in number. The most important of them is the separation of judiciary and executive. I could not follow him fully from such a distance. But I may tell him that so far as magisterial powers are concerned, if we give such powers to munsifs, they will become subordinate to the District Magistrate who is an executive officer. We want to keep the two classes of officers absolutely separate —judicial officers should do the judicial work without any interference from the executive side and Deputy Magistrates and others who do the magisterial work should do their own executive work, being subordinate to the District Magistrate. I do not believe we will improve the administration of justice if we allow criminal cases to be disposed of by our judicial officers which means that we make them executive officers and put them under the control of the District Magistrate. On this ground specially, I object to the proposal of my friend and, I think, we should not encourage any proposal to put our judicial officers, who are absolutely independent, under the control of executive officers. I think this will explain the position of the department in this matter, and I am afraid I cannot accept this suggestion as this will lead to deterioration of the present state of affairs instead of improving it.

Then the next point has been urged by my friend, Mr. Abu Hossain Sarker, about the Honorary Magistrates. I am sorry, he comes from such a backward place (Loud laughter.) that he cannot find a straightforward man there who can work as Honorary Magistrate and do criminal justice there! I am surprised to hear that Honorary Magistrates recruited from his place are nothing but rotten bribe-takers and that is why he attacks this system of Honorary Magistrates. He says that the persons selected are not the right type of men and that is why we have failed to do our duty there. I may tell him that all these persons are selected on the recommendation of the District Magistrate. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Or of the police?) No, they are selected on the recommendation of the District Magistrate. I know in one or two cases some Honorary Magistrates have not got reputation.

Mr. ABU HOSSAIN SARKAR: He was involved in a bribe-taking case.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry, Mr. Sarkar, you are taking too much advantage of your position in the House.

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: Really speaking, from my experience of the whole province I have never heard anywhere that our Honorary Magistrates have been guilty of taking bribe anywhere. If my friend has experience like that, it must be local.

Babu KSHETRA NATH SINGHA: People of backward places are very intelligent in that respect.

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: If you now want to dispense with the system, you will have to appoint at least 150 Stipendiary Magistrates to do the work in the mufassal and another 20 magistrates to do work in Calcutta. From the information that I have received over 80,000 cases are disposed of by the Honorary Magistrates in Calcutta and about 40,000 cases are disposed of in the mufassal by Honorary Magistrates, while the Stipendiary Magistrates disposed of about three times that number. So if you want to get the work of the Honorary Magistrates done by the Stipendiary Magisrates, provide for more money. I do not believe that my friend, the Hon'ble Home Minister, will object to getting money from you and spending it for doing better work. But at present you are saving a good deal of money by allowing these Honorary Magistrates to work. If you think that all your people are rotten and that they cannot be trusted with the administration of jusice anywhere, I shudder to think of that state of affairs. I cannot say that we Indians are rotten people, and we cannot do our duty impartially, and that we cannot be entrusted with any judicial work. If that is your experience it is very unfortunate, and I do not believe that there is any justification for our thinking that our people are so bad.

Then my friend, Mr. Sibnath Banerjee, says that in the police court there is no justice, and the justice which is administered there is nothing but mockery. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: There is no appeal there.) So far as the system is concerned, you know that whenever any wrong is done by a Presidency Magistrate there is an appeal in the High Court. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Not in all cases.) No. Not in petty cases, but there are cases which can be remedied by the upper court. But if the appellate court also confirms the decision of the lower court, you cannot blame the lower court for that. So if you say that the lower court has done any wrong, it can be remedied by the appellate court.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Have you any experience of a motor case?

Mr. SPEAKER: Nawab Sahib, can you prosecute Dr. Sanyal for interruption? (Laughter.)

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: There may be just petty cases where the people do not care for the order to pay 8 annas or 4 anans. In such cases there may not be any appeal, but in all other cases there are appeals. I do not think that the system is so rotten that you can accuse it as a whole. If you say that

there is mockery of justice in all the courts, then of course there will be some justification for an allegation like that. But I say the Presidency Magistrate's Court is just a link in the chain, and if you say that the link is wrong but the chain is not wrong, then there is nothing wrong done by the Presidency Magistrate which can be remedied.

Then my friend, Mr. Atul Chandra Sen, has raised certain points and he complains that we are doing wrong in the appointment of Public Prosecutor and Government Pleader. You must have heard the speech of my friend Mr. Mridha who has so ably discussed the point. That shows the feeling of the country. When communal percentage is being followed in matters of appointment, if a Hindu has been appointed as a Government Pleader in one place a Muhammadan must be appointed as Public Prosecutor there. In this particular instance a Hindu was appointed as Government Pleader one year before the appointment of the Public Prosecutor. So I do not think any wrong has been done and the best Muhammadan has been appointed there. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: And a relation of the Minister also.) Not always. (Laughter.) If you say that a candidate should be debarred from an appointment because he is a relation of the Minister, there also you will be wrong. If he is otherwise qualified, he should not be debarred.

Then I come to my friend Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta and Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal who raised a very large issue. Mr. Sanyal says that some of the appointments of District Judges should be made from practising lawyers and from the mufassal Bar. I may tell him that four District Judges have been recruited from the legal profession. There are already three there and one will be appointed very shortly. He will be recruited either from the mufassal Bar or from the Calcutta Bar, so the mufassal Bar will not go unrepresented in that appointment. You have got your quota there and there will be no difficulty in that. Then as regards the appointment of junior I.C.S. men as District Judges, I may say this much that I have never heard of any I.C.S. man being appointed a District Judge who has not got 10 of service. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: What about a Subdivisional Magistrate being appointed as a District Judge?) He must have at least 10 years of service, before he is appointed a District Judge. So an I.C.S. officer with 10 years' experience cannot be said to be without any knowledge of affairs. However, this complaint has been made to me not only by my friend Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal but by many other people as well. There may be force in that, but gradually, I tell you, it is being eliminated, and I have never heard that junior officers are now appointed as District Judges. I.C.S. officers before being appointed as Judges are nowadays getting judicial training. I think that meets all the points that have been raised.

The motion of Mr. Shyama Prosad Barman that the demand of Rs. 72,74,000 for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Abu Hossain Sarkar that the demand of Rs. 72,74,000 for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Sibnath Banerjee that the demand of Rs. 72,74,000 for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Atul Chandra Sen that the demand of Rs. 72,74,000 for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal, that the demand of Rs. 72,74,000 for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice" be reduced by Rs. 100, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruff Hossain, Khan Bahadur, that a sum of Rs. 72,74,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice" was then put and agreed to.

Message from the Bengal Legislative Council about a Joint Conference.

The Secretary read out the following message received from the Bengal Legislative Council:—

"That the Bengal Legislative Assembly be informed of the Resolutions annexed hereto, passed in the Bengal Legislative Council at its meeting held on the 20th March, 1940, and that the concurrence of the Bengal Legislative Assembly is desired to the same."

Resolutions.

1. That a conference of both the Chambers be formed to consider the rules promulgated by Government under the Motor Vehicles Act and laid before this House under section 133(3) of the said Act.

2. That the Bengal Legislative Assembly be requested to agree to the Joint Conference and the following seven members be appointed on behalf of the Bengal Legislative Council:—

(1) Khan Bahadur Ataur Rahman,

(2) Khan Bahadur Naziruddin Ahmad,

(3) Khan Bahadur M. Shamsuzzoha,

(4) Mr. Ranajit Pal Chowdhury,

(5) Mr. W. F. Scott-Kerr,

(6) Raja Bhupendra Narayan Sinha Bahadur, of Nashipur, and

(7) Mr. Lalit Chandra Das.

Point of Order.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. I cannot really understand how this message can be accepted by this House in its present form. The rules state that such a conference can only take place if there is a difference of opinion arising between the two Chambers in regard to any matter or if in respect of any matter a conference between the Chambers is considered desirable. But, Sir, we have not discussed the matter and we have not yet found whether it is desirable to have a joint conference.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let the motion be moved first.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: But, Sir, let us first ascertain the views of the House independently.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let the motion be moved, that it is in respect of the Motor Vehicles Rules and that the following members have been appointed to confer with certain members of the Assembly.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What I am afraid of, Sir, is that in this House we have a right to take up such amendments as members of this House may be pleased to move. Otherwise, it will have the effect of shutting out discussion on important amendments with which members of the House may like to come forward. I hope that members will not be shut out from that right.

Mr. SPEAKER: No, they won't be shut out.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Thank you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is of course unless constitutional advisers advise me to the contrary. (Laughter.)

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, I beg to move that this House agrees to the resolutions received from the Council——

Mr. SPEAKER: No, no. Move it in the exact language, namely, that in respect of the Motor Vehicles Rules the Assembly is of opinion that a conference between the two Chambers is desirable and that this House agrees to a joint conference.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I am prepared to accept the formula, and I beg to move according to the formula suggested by the Hon'ble Speaker.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What is that? (Laughter.)

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I move that it is desirable to have a joint conference, and I further beg to move that this House agrees to the message received from the Council.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: On a point of order, Sir. Can he do that? Is he in order? He can only move that it is desirable to have a joint conference, but so far as agreeing to the message of the Council is concerned, he has no right.

Mr. SPEAKER: He can move that for consideration of the Motor Vehicles Rules this House is of opinion that a conference between the two Chambers is desirable and that members of the Bengal Legislative Assembly agree to a Joint Conference with the representatives of the Bengal Legislative Council, and for that purpose appoint the following persons as its representatives.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, we have not yet had the opportunity of hearing the names. I submitted yesterday that it would be very much desirable to have the amendments to the Motor Vehicles Rules first, so that we might know who are the members interested in the matter. It might be quite impossible for any conference to take place without knowing the amendments that will come up before them. I would therefore suggest that amendments be invited, and then let there be an election. Sir, I do not believe in a conspiracy, if at all, between even the Opposition Whip and Government to shut out discussion.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think things are so bad as that!

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Sir, on behalf of the Congress party, I may mention that in consultation with the General Secretary the Congress party has nominated its representatives. I cannot vouchsafe for the other Whips, but the Leader of the Krishak Proja party, Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed, endorses my view that if this motion is agreed upon, it should be in the interest of all parties in this House to see that not much time is lost, and we ought to be able to keep out amendments which the party considers unnecessary.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let Sir Nazimuddin move the names.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: May I, Sir, just draw your attention to Rule 11 where the procedure is laid down, namely, that when a message comes from one Chamber to the other in the form of a resolution——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. I have just heard the Whip of the Congress party saying that certain amendments would be kept out, if the party desires it. I do not know if you are going to recognise this.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have said times without number that it is purely a party question.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I want to repudiate the right of any member of this House, however, highly placed he may be, to shut out discussion.

Mr. ABDUR RAHMAN SIDDIQI: On a point of order, Sir. If the law and the Standing Orders permit a certain procedure, I do not see how honourable members of this House can have objection to the procedure definitely laid down there. What a party considers or not has nothing to do with it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Yes, that is exactly my point.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, I think according to Rule 11 the concurrence of this House is necessary to the message that will come from the Upper House. Therefore, I think that——

Mr. SPEAKER: I would still advise you to frame your resolution in this way, namely, "that in respect of the Motor Vehicles Rules a conference between this Assembly and the Council is desirable and this Assembly gives its concurrence to the resolution passed for the holding of a conference with the members nominated." You may now speak in support of the resolution. You may also mention the names which have been chosen by this House.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: All right, Sir. I beg to move that the following gentlemen be nominated to represent this House in the joint conference, viz.—

(1) Mr. David Hendry,
(2) Mr. Pulin Behary Mullick,
(3) Khan Bahadur Mahommad Ali,
(4) Mr. Fazlur Rahman, of Dacca,
(5) Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu,
(6) Mr. M. Shamsuddin Ahmed, and
(7) the mover.

Sir, I may explain, in view of what has been stated by one or two members, that the easiest way to give effect to the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act in respect of its rules is to have a Joint Conference, and if we can get an agreement then the resolution that will be approved by the Joint Conference can be put in the House and then sent up to the Upper House for approval.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I strongly repudiate the procedure suggested by the Hon'ble Minister.

Mr. SPEAKER: Well, let him finish.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: The joint conference is to help the members of both Houses to go into the matter thoroughly and to place their recommendations before this House. The right of the House to discuss that report is not being taken away by the appointment of a Joint Conference. The only difficulty that I see is the duration of the session, and whether it will be possible to give time for detailed consideration of their report. That is a matter, Sir, that can only be taken into consideration later on, after the Joint Conference has made its report. If the results of the conference are just as we would like them to be, namely, that a certain amount of agreement has been reached on all sides, then there will be no difficulty so far as this House is concerned, as it has got the representatives of all the important groups in the conference, and it is assumed that unless something extraordinary happens the parties will accept the recommendations of their representatives.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I would draw your attention to the fact that it was I who on the 15th of February, the first day of the session, called the attention of Sir Nazimuddin to the attempt that was being made by his department to pass off the Motor Vehicles Rules without reference to the Legislature and thereafter I drew attention to section 133(3) of the Indian Motor Vehicles Act where it is laid down that "for not less than 14 days before the Central or the Provincial Legislature these rules have got to be laid and as soon as may be possible after they are made shall be subjected to such modifications as the Legislature may make during the session in which they have been so laid." Apart from the question of procedure, I would like to submit that the method suggested by the Hon'ble Sir Nazimuddin, if agreed to at this stage, would create for the future considerable trouble in regard to many other similar provisions in which the House has got to approve of rules made by Government under various Acts. I apprehend, Sir Nazimuddin now proposes to have an omnibus resolution to be placed before the House, approving of the Motor Vehicles Rules—a whole set of rules by one resolution—a resolution

arising out of a conference. The members of this House will have no right to know what is happening in the conference. Members will have no opportunity of sending amendments for consideration by the conference, members who have studied the rules carefully from day to day, and have probably fought hard with Sir Nazimuddin and his department so far in this connection, have been somehow kept out of the conference, and there is an attempt to get the whole thing passed overnight over the heads of this Assembly, and the Assembly will be kept completely in the dark as to what is happening. This will be very unfair. I therefore submit for your consideration that this will be a very wrong procedure and would take away important rights of this House—right of suggesting amendments to the big set of rules placed before the House. These rules relate to numerous important subjects and some of these rules will have a permanent and far-reaching effect. I submit that these rules should be discussed as Bills are discussed and amendments should be invited from this House, and if any member or members have got any amendments to propose, the amendments should be permitted to be moved and disposed of on the floor of the House when they are placed before the House as a whole. If Sir Nazimuddin can then satisfy the House, he will have a majority and get the amendments turned down, but let the suggestions coming from different members not be completely shut out by the procedure suggested. I implore you, Sir, to exercise your privilege to safeguard the rights of the members of this House to suggest improvements on such important Rules and Bills that Government propose to make.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister please explain why he will not invite amendments for consideration by the Joint Conference?

Babu PREMHARI BARMA: Sir, I also protest against this procedure on various grounds among others, the most important being that no representative from the Independent Scheduled Caste has been taken on this conference, and yet the Hon'ble Minister has said that the committee has been representative of all the important groups and parties. So I say that if no member from this party is taken, the committee cannot be a representative committee.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, may I be allowed to further explain one or two points in this connection. The first contention of Dr. Sanyal that this matter is not being treated as a Bill in respect of procedure is incorrect. This is being treated as a matter of fact as a Bill—just as a Bill is placed before the House, and sent to a select committee——

Mr. SPEAKER: Sir Nazimuddin, how the matter shall be treated is a matter to be decided by me.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I did not say how this matter should be treated, but I only said how I myself looked at it, and I say that this matter is to be treated just as an ordinary Bill is treated—just as it is placed before the House, and then moved and referred to a select committee. In this case instead of being referred to a select committee the only difference is that it is being referred to a joint conference of the two Houses. We have always felt a difficulty about a joint conference, because we had no rules before. But now we have expressly made rules for the holding of a joint conference to obviate the inconvenience of sending the same Bills to select committees in both Houses, so that instead of sending Bills to select committees in each House they may be deliberated upon by a joint conference in the first instance. But in the rules what should be the procedure of the joint conference is not laid down, so the joint conference will have its own procedure. Now I cannot, in advance, bind the joint conference as to whether the members of both Houses should be invited to send their suggestions to them or not, but it is quite open to the joint conference to circularize to the members of both Houses that if there be any suggestions which the members would like to place before them they can easily do so. And, Sir, even that is not all. If the members so like they can again reconsider the whole thing; that right of the House is not being taken away, because the report of the joint conference will be placed before the Assembly and when it is so placed if the members so desire and if the parties like to discuss the matter in detail, just as they discuss a report from the select committee, clause by clause, and if the House want that the entire rules should be taken up clause by clause it will be quite open to the House to do so. The only difficulty is that at this stage I cannot on behalf of Government guarantee that, if this is going to be prolonged and everything is going to be discussed, time can be provided for the House to do that! I give no undertaking as regards what time will be allowed for that. But the report will certainly be placed before the Assembly and opportunity given to the House if they so desire to consider in detail the amendments.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: In that event, I suggest that instead of Rule 11, Rule 12 be followed. What the Hon'ble Sir Nazimuddin has explained relates entirely to matters contemplated in Rule 12 and not Rule 11.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I don't think any change can be made. The House has got to make up its mind whether it will accept my motion or reject it. Rule 11 has already been given effect to in the other House. The other House will not be meeting for another 6 days and the whole thing will be very much delayed. Fourteen days' statutory time will have to be given and after the expiry of that, if the session is closed, it will not be——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The responsibility is yours. Have a night session if necessary.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: That is entirely for Government. If Government are satisfied that a reasonable opportunity has been given——

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: To whom?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: To both the Houses by means of this joint conference. If that thing is not accepted, then Government may not give any further opportunity.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: This is a threat. I appeal to you, Sir, that Sir Nazimuddin should not give any threats to this House. Will you please ask him to withdraw his threat?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: As I am on my legs, I am not going to give way to Dr. Sanyal. So long, I have refrained from mentioning the fact, but as Dr. Sanyal has protested on the ground of threat, I may say that it was in consultation with him yesterday and with his approval that this procedure was accepted. I do not know why he has changed his mind. I can assure the House that I have

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is part of my suggestion

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I have taken no part in getting his name out of this committee

Mr. C. MORGAN: On a point of information, Sir. If this resolution is accepted, do the rules come into force in any case on the 1st of April?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a question of legal consequence. I cannot say.

There is a certain amount of misunderstanding over this question. Unfortunately here we are not governed by the provisions of the Government of India Act or the rules. We are here carrying out the function which has come over to us by a certain Act passed by the Central Legislature. I take it that the Central Legislature did not probably foresee the complexities of the problems that would arise. Otherwise there must have been some provision to obviate these. As matters stand at present, it means that this has to be approved or disapproved by the Legislature. How and in what manner the Legislature has to approve of them has been left vague for the time being.

This is the first time that a question of this character has arisen, and I take it that not only the merits of this case but also other incidental matters will have to be gone into with a view to guide us in our future deliberations on these matters. For the time being the issue is clear. There is a resolution passed asking the concurrence of this House to a conference between the two Houses by the other House. It will be quite open to this House, instead of accepting a conference, to suggest a joint committee. But we are here in this position that the other House has asked for a conference. This House may either reject it or suggest a joint committee. For the time being the procedure suggested has been in consonance with Rule 11, namely, that a conference between the two Chambers is considered desirable, to consider the rules in terms of section 133(3) of the Act which says:—

"All rules made under this Act by the Central Government or by any Provincial Government shall be laid for not less than 14 days before the Central or Provincial Legislature, as the case may be, as soon as possible after they are made, and shall be subject to such modifications as the Legislature may make during the session in which they are so laid."

There are many complexities. It is not a question of threat. It is a question of legal consequence. Supposing the two Houses do not agree, well, this Act does not provide as to what the consequence will be. On the other hand, unless you disapprove jointly, the rules stand. Whether that is the legal effect is also a matter which has to be considered. Therefore, I don't raise that issue For the time being I put the resolution to the House.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: In that case, may I be permitted to move an amendment?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am prepared to give you a chance.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that a resolution be passed in this Chamber recommending that the Motor Vehicles Rules be committed to a Joint Committee of both Chambers and a message be sent to the other Chamber to inform it of the resolution and to desire its concurrence in the resolution as per Rule 12 of the Bengal Legislative (Joint Sittings and Communications) Rules.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: On a point of order, Sir. Before Dr. Sanyal takes up any time, I should like to submit that there is no procedure for a joint committee except in the case of a Bill.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think that the Hon'ble Sir Nazimuddin has caught you this time. (Laughter.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: No, Sir. I want your ruling as to whether this is going to be treated as a Bill or not. That is the whole purpose of my contention. If your ruling is going to be that this will not be treated as a Bill, then the Hon'ble Sir Nazimuddin's contention may be acceptable: otherwise my point stands.

Mr. SPEAKER: On a contentious matter like this, I would not take the risk of giving a decision which will have the effect of making what is not a Bill a Bill That is my difficulty.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: What is it then?

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not know. Therefore I hold that Dr. Sanyal's motion is not in order.

The motion of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin that this House is of opinion that a conference between the two Chambers is desirable and that members of the Bengal Legislative Assembly agree to a joint conference with the representatives of the Bengal Legislative Council to consider the rules framed by the Government under the Indian Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, and laid before the Assembly under section 133(3) of the said Act and for that purpose appoint the following persons as its representatives—

(1) The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin,

(2) Mr. David Hendry,

(3) Mr. Pulin Behary Mullick,

(4) Khan Bahadur Mahommad Ali,

(5) Mr. Fazlur Rahman, of Dacca,

(6) Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu, and

(7) Mr. M Shamsuddin Ahmed,

was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

It being 5-50 p.m.—

The House was adjourned till 4-45 p.m. on Tuesday, the 26th March, 1940, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

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